

# Hammersmith

## CHRONICLE

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## BLIND BEA IS SAVED FROM DEATH



Primary pupils proved they've got flair for showbiz when they performed at their school's annual talent show, *The W Factor*. The event is Wendell Park Primary School's answer to ITV's *The X Factor*. Here, winners Ruby Green, Anya Yacef, Asia McFarlane, Anila Berisha and Wissal Mezidi celebrate their success

FULL STORY ON PAGE 5

### Cowan refuses to buckle

HAMMERSMITH and Fulham council leader Stephen Cowan is defiantly refusing to buckle against a move by health chiefs to try to get him into trouble with the minister of local government – for allegedly breaking a council code of practice by sending a Save Charing Cross Hospital leaflet out to residents with council-tax updates.

The Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust has made a formal complaint against Cllr Cowan to the minister, claiming that the leaflet protesting against the hospital closure is “incorrect and misleading”. The trust is demanding a retraction from Cllr Cowan.

In a letter of protest to Cllr Cowan and copied to Marcus Jones, minister for local government, the trust's chief executive, Dr Tracey Batten, says claims made in the council leaflet about the future of the hospital are “likely to cause significant, unnecessary distress to patients and staff”.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 4

# Councils' bust-up to cost us millions

### Bitter row brings end to premier authorities' 'let's work together' pact

BY GEOFF BAKER  
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A SHOCK and bitter bust-up between London's three most premier borough councils has seen their six-year “let's work together” pact dramatically dumped in a move that will cost local taxpayers millions.

Westminster council and Kensington & Chelsea council have ganged up to chuck Hammersmith & Fulham council out of the famous tri-borough arrangement for saving on spending on adult and children social-care services.

But Hammersmith & Fulham council says the tri-borough deal wasn't that great at savings anyway and it appears to be glad to be out of it.

All manner of accusations are now flying about in the row, with

Westminster and RBKC blaming Hammersmith & Fulham, and Hammersmith & Fulham blaming Westminster and RBKC.

Whoever is at “fault”, it will be residents who will carry the can – RBKC leader Nick Paget-Brown warns that the cost of ending the tri-borough deal “is likely to be in the millions”.

Westminster and RBKC say that they will now work together to form a “bi-borough” provision of services.

Meanwhile Hammersmith & Fulham predicts it will be better off out of the gang-of-three pact and it hints that the elephant in the room behind the *Yes Minister*-style farce is its campaign to keep Charing Cross Hospital open, whereas its former best mates want it closed.

The battle of the boroughs began

stealthily on March 27 when the Press office of Westminster council took the highly unusual move of issuing a statement announcing the end of the threesome at 8pm, long after staff at H&F had gone home.

Next morning, around 8.30am, RBKC's Press office then landed the second punch at H&F with another statement which – like Westminster's – appeared to put all of the blame for the split on H&F.

It is indicative of the now-yawning chasm of the cold war between Westminster and RBKC and H&F that Hammersmith & Fulham's Press office had no inkling of the two-pronged strike until being alerted by this newspaper. The two Tory councils had not sent their releases to their Labour former buddy.

The first release, from Westmin-

ster, read: “Westminster City Council and Kensington & Chelsea have reluctantly decided to serve notice on the tri-borough arrangements that were established in June 2011 to drive savings and public-service reform for the benefit of residents in three key London boroughs.”

“The decision has been taken in the face of uncertainty caused by one partner, Hammersmith & Fulham, appearing to make alternative in-house plans without any formal engagement with the other two local-authority partners about key services.”

“This is causing anxiety to shared staff and placing potential risks to the joint services for vulnerable people in each borough.”

“As a result, Westminster's cabinet met on March 27, and formally

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Don Juan in Soho reviewed - see page 20

# Mum: Help me save lives

BY GEOFF BAKER

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A HAMMERSMITH mum is leading a nationwide campaign for an urgent government crackdown on schools which are shockingly breaking the law and risking the death of children by not having an adequate medical conditions policy.

Louise Fyfe-Taylor is calling for immediate intervention after her daughter could have died because of her school's failing.

She is being backed by more than 25,000 other parents who are calling on children minister Edward Timpson to step in and warn schools, including many across West London, that they are acting illegally and could be held responsible for a child dying.

She is also being supported by more than 30 leading charities which are outraged by schools' neglectful attitude to the risk to their pupils' health - which has so worried some parents that they have given up work to make sure that their children are safe in school.

Despite schools having a legal obligation since 2014 to protect children, research has discovered that nine out of every 10 schools - including many in the Hammersmith area - are failing to do so.

Mrs Fyfe-Taylor said: "My daughter Jenny has Type 1 diabetes. That means by law her school should have had a long-term medical conditions policy in place to protect her and other children with long-term conditions, like ME (chronic fatigue syndrome), asthma, arthritis, coeliac disease, epilepsy, migraine and many more.

"But after Jenny had a major problem at school recently, I found out they didn't.

"That's why I am asking the minister for children and families, Edward Timpson, to make sure every school has a long-term medical conditions policy in place to support and protect children like Jenny.

"Jenny was out doing her cycling proficiency when she had a massive hypoglycaemic episode. No-one had made sure she had her test kit or any glucose with her."

Hypoglycaemia means low blood glucose levels, too low to provide enough energy for your

Louise Fyfe-Taylor pictured winning an award for her campaign, with Richard Lane, ambassador for Diabetes UK



body's activities - if not given emergency treatment it can result in brain death.

Mrs Fyfe-Taylor said: "Jenny was made to walk back to school where it took her 40 minutes to recover. I've spent the last few weeks asking other schools in my area what support they offer. Disappointingly, no schools I spoke to had a long-term medical conditions policy in place. In England, this is actually a breach of the law - but more importantly it risks children's lives.

"This serious threat to my daughter's health could have been avoided if a medical conditions policy had been in place and was being properly followed.

"That's why I want the minister, Edward Timpson, to write to every school in England to remind them that they have a legal responsibility to have a medical conditions policy.

"And to make sure that these policies are actually being followed, he should ask school regulator Ofsted to look at this during their inspections.

"Making sure schools get this right will help children with serious medical conditions thrive in school, and could save a life."

A petition demanding that the minister for children and families takes immediate action against the failing schools has been signed by more than 25,000 parents. The demand is also supported by the Health Conditions in Schools Alliance - a coalition of more than 30 leading charities and health organisations including Diabetes UK, Asthma UK and Crohn's & Colitis UK.

"Thousands of children with long-term medical conditions such as Type 1 diabetes, asthma and epilepsy are being put at risk in schools across England," said a spokesman for the alliance.

"Based on new data disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act alongside investigations by Diabetes UK, nine in 10 schools in England asked could not present an adequate medical conditions policy.

"A medical conditions policy aids teachers and other school staff in caring for any child with long-term health conditions and has been mandatory since September 2014.

"Of the few schools that did provide a policy, two thirds were inadequate and missed key details such as staff training, how

to safely include the child in all activities, and, crucially, what to do in an emergency."

The alliance says the Department for Education needs to do more to make schools aware of their legal responsibility to put medical conditions policies in place.

It is also calling on Ofsted to start checking if schools are complying with the legislation that makes medical conditions policies compulsory.

Roz Rosenblatt, head of London for Diabetes UK, said: "The law states all schools should have a medical conditions policy outlining how to care for any children with medical conditions, the procedures for getting the right care and training, and who is responsible for making sure the policy is carried out.

"Without this document in place, staff may not know how to properly care for a child with a medical condition which can lead to very dangerous consequences, and, in a worst-case scenario, death.

"Ofsted needs to check for medical conditions policies as part of its inspections to ensure schools are doing everything in their power to keep children safe. We're currently in talks with the Department for Education but it needs to be more active in letting schools know it is their legal duty to produce and implement this document."

The alliance spokesman said: "Diabetes UK, which posed the Freedom of Information request for the alliance, has also heard directly from parents whose children are discriminated against by being excluded from activities and after-school clubs because of their condition.

"Some have had to sit exams without appropriate support resulting in severe effects on their social and academic development; and some parents have even gone as far as giving up work to make sure their children are safe in school."

To support the petition, go to change.org.

## Contacting your council

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## Appeal for info after carpenter's murder

DETECTIVES are appealing for information over the murder of kind and popular carpenter Malachi Brooks who was stabbed to death near Prince George's new primary school in Battersea.

Malachi, 22, was ambushed and murdered as he made his way home just after 1am last Tuesday after spending the evening at a friend's house.

Neighbours in Surrey Lane said they called emergency services after hearing the victim's screams of pain. The incident happened just yards from the private Thomas's School, where Prince George is due to start in September.

Mr Brooks, a former pupil of Southfields Academy and Lambeth College, grew up in Brixton but moved Battersea to be with his girlfriend of two-and-a-half years, Rebecca Nowland.

Miss Nowland, 24, said she was "devastated and broken" at his murder, adding: "He wasn't just my boyfriend, he was my best friend, my rock. Words can't describe how much I miss him already."

Her brother Ben, 18, said: "Malachi was the brother I never had. Malachi was the coolest, funniest, most loving and outgoing person you could ever meet who always had time for others."

DI Tony Lynes, leading the investigation, said: "This was a brutal attack on a young man."

"We are still trying to establish the circumstances behind this incident, and we are appealing to anybody who was in the area at around the time of the attack – from 12.45am onwards – or who lives nearby and may have seen or heard something to come forward and speak to officers as soon as possible."

Detectives from the Homicide and Major Crime Command are investigating, and are appealing for any witnesses, or anyone with information, to call the incident room on 020 8721 4868. Police can also be contacted via Twitter @MetCC.

To give information anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org).

## Take more care on Thames, urges RNLI

THE RNLI has warned Londoners to take a lot more care when messing about on the Thames.

The warning comes after London lifeboats were launched 758 times last year.

Volunteer lifeboat crews at lifeboat stations in Central London, Chiswick and Teddington rescued a total of 195 people during 2016. Their lifeboat crew members – many of whom are volunteers who give up their time for free – collectively spent a total of 8,485 hours on the water involved in either searches and rescues or training exercises.

"Whilst the RNLI is primarily a frontline rescue service, the charity isn't just about rescuing people when they find themselves in danger. It aims to equip people with the knowledge and skills to avoid trouble in the first place and know what to do should they find themselves or others in danger in, on or near the river," said a spokesman.

Neil Withers, RNLI area lifesaving manager, said: "In an ideal world our rescue service would be a last resort, and we'd really like to see people paying more attention to safety messages and giving the water the respect it deserves."

"While we will always answer the call for help, myself and everyone within the RNLI would like to see people staying safer."

"Once again we are extremely grateful for the dedication shown by our lifesavers. Our paid and volunteer lifeboat crew at Tower and Chiswick permanently crew the lifeboat stations to be in a position to launch within 90 seconds to any incident on the tidal River Thames. Our volunteer crew at Teddington are always poised to drop everything at the beep of their pager, much like our volunteers at more than 200 lifeboat stations around the coastline."

"As recently as two weeks ago, Tower RNLI lifeboat crew showed they are part of a tight-knit emergency services community. On the day of the terror attack in Westminster the lifeboat crew launched to search the Thames amid fears that people had ended up in the water. Indeed, one severely injured woman was taken back to the lifeboat station and handed into the care of the ambulance service."

Tower and Chiswick RNLI lifeboat stations are traditionally the two busiest out of the RNLI's 237 stations, and 2016 was no different. Tower launched 512 times and rescued 72 people; Chiswick launched 180 times and rescued 110 people; and Teddington launched 66 times and rescued 13 people.

# Taxpayers to carry can for councils' acrimonious split

FROM FRONT PAGE

agreed to give notice to terminate the shared staffing arrangements in respect of tri-borough children's services, tri-borough adult social-care services and tri-borough public-health services. The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea has also taken the same decision, and both boroughs remain absolutely determined to continue to work together for the benefit of local people.

"Since its creation, the tri-borough project has been credited with improving services whilst realising significant savings, including: an 'outstanding' rating for Westminster's and Kensington & Chelsea's children's services; improving school results at Key Stage 2 and GCSE; contributing to a high percentage of schools, well above the national average, rated good or outstanding; positive inspection reports on the youth offending service; estimated savings of £43 million.

"Tri-borough's legal agreements set out that with any termination of the arrangements all parties are obliged to minimise disruption to delivery of services and to staff during the period of notice. To assist with this, Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea have called for a joint project team with Hammersmith & Fulham to oversee the transition.

"The leader of Westminster City Council, Cllr Nickie Aiken, said: 'We would not have chosen to end the tri-borough arrangements which we believe have been a great success. When it was established in 2011 it was quite rightly lauded as an innovation in local-authority service delivery. With extremely talented and hardworking staff, its track record speaks for itself with successes in children's services, school attainment results and youth offending services to name but a few, combined with some £43 million of estimated savings. This means we have been able to better support frontline services, which is what all our residents expect."

"However, both the leader of Kensington & Chelsea and I feel we are unable to continue with tri-borough when we have a partner that we do not believe is committed to it as we are and appears to be making their own plans to leave, without any formal discussions.

"We can't have that uncertainty for staff and these vital services which is why, with much regret, we have taken the very reluctant decision to terminate the joint arrangements for children's services, adult social care and public health.

"We are confident that the future remains stable and positive for the continued sharing of services between Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea and our door remains firmly open should Hammersmith & Fulham wish to come and discuss a review of the current arrangements and find alternative ways of working together.

"As ever, our focus will always



Council leaders Nickie Aiken, Nick Paget-Brown, above, and Stephen Cowan

be on ensuring the best and most efficient services for local people and this will not be affected by the cabinet's decision regarding tri-borough."

RBKC then completed the old one-two boxing tactic with its own release the next morning. It read: "Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster have reluctantly agreed to serve notice on Hammersmith & Fulham of their intention to withdraw from service-sharing arrangements in the areas of adult social care, children's services and public health.

"The move follows the gradual emergence of a Hammersmith & Fulham plan to set up an in-house 'people's' department that, once established, would take over and deliver these key services to Hammersmith & Fulham residents alone.

"We had no wish to withdraw from sharing arrangements with Hammersmith & Fulham," said royal borough leader Cllr Nick Paget-Brown.

"But these are vital services to vulnerable people. As knowledge of Hammersmith & Fulham's plan grew, staff were becoming more and more anxious about their futures and that of the critically important services they work so hard to provide.

"These services need certainty and stability in order to be reliable and effective. We have taken this action in order to restore that certainty and stability."

"The formal severance notice means that by April 1 2018 Hammersmith & Fulham will be going it alone when it comes to adult social care, children's services and public health.

"Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster have already made it plain they intend to continue sharing these services on a bi-borough basis. And Kensington & Chelsea will now seek reassurance in relation to what remains of the tri-borough arrangement and in relation to services it still shares with Hammersmith & Fulham alone, most notably waste and recycling.

"On the question of just why Hammersmith & Fulham was planning to withdraw from elements of the service-sharing arrangement, Cllr Paget-Brown said: 'With local government now in its eighth year of austerity, the partnership created between Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea in 2011 is perhaps the key reason why residents in our part of West London have been spared the deeper cuts witnessed elsewhere.

"By planning to end tri-borough adult social care, public health and children's services H&F will be imposing additional costs on its partners and on itself. While that cost cannot yet be fully determined it is likely to be in the millions.

"What is so puzzling about its actions is that our shared children's services department is nationally recognised as outstanding and our shared adult social-care services have demonstrably stood up better to the national crisis in social care than those in in most other places.

"Of course partnership places some limits on operational freedom, and that can be frustrating, but the savings we have made through sharing have helped preserve vital services to our most vulnerable residents. To our mind, this far outweighs the inconveniences and minor partisan frustrations of sharing services.

"We will now press Hammersmith & Fulham to work with us to preserve what remains of service sharing and to ensure that the unstitching of adults, children's and public health does as little harm as possible to the people who rely on our services."

"In 2011 the three boroughs announced Britain's first major service-sharing agreement. Dubbed tri-borough, the agreement was by 2016-17 saving each council in the region of £13 million a year in management and back-office costs."

Three hours later, Hammersmith & Fulham leapt out of its corner, punching hard and questioning the tri-borough deal's lack of transparency and little effective savings.

Its Press statement read: "Hammersmith & Fulham council leader Stephen Cowan has responded to the announcement by Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea councils that they intend formally to serve notice to pull

out of the tri-borough with H&F. Cllr Stephen Cowan said: 'Hammersmith & Fulham aspires to be the best value, most effective council in the country – the best place for residents to live and businesses to prosper.

"We've built a reputation for improving services to residents while keeping tax low. While our neighbours in Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster councils have increased council tax by two per cent and four per cent respectively, Hammersmith & Fulham is one of only a few councils in the country to freeze council tax.

"In fact, we're the only London council to cut council tax this electoral term, the only council in the country to abolish charges for adult social care, and the only council to cut 85 per cent of all charges for our residents, including freezing parking-permit charges for each of the last three years."

"Turning to the tri-borough, Cllr Cowan said: 'We've had concerns for some time about the value of the tri-borough, its lack of transparency and its built-in conflicts of interest.

"In our last two budgets, Hammersmith & Fulham council found £31 million in savings but the tri-borough contributed no more than £200,000 of that, less than one per cent.

"Problems with tri-borough contracts, procured by Westminster council, have cost Hammersmith & Fulham over £5 million, including the botched contract for special-needs transport that put our disabled children at risk.

"And senior tri-borough officers have had to balance Hammersmith & Fulham's determination to keep Charing Cross Hospital open with Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea's support for closing it.

"Triggering withdrawal is evidently a long-planned move by the two councils. I look forward to having sensible discussions with them about how we can all move on in the best way for our residents."

The Labour group on Westminster council claims that the tri-borough collapse "traces back to Westminster council mismanagement".

A Labour spokesman said: "Westminster council's long-term mismanagement of back-office systems for Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster were at the root of the break-up of tri-borough arrangements.

"Councillors in Hammersmith & Fulham had little alternative but to look for other arrangements following grotesque failings in some of the back-office tri-borough workings, for which Westminster was the lead borough. From the start of tri-borough, Westminster took charge of an attempt to run all three councils' routine billing and staff hours, pay and pensions administration through one contract."

● Do you have a view on the row of the councils? Send letters to the editor via [geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk).



# Royal visitor

## NEWS FROM NICK



Leader of Kensington and Chelsea council, Nick Paget-Brown, writes for you

**L**AST month I had the privilege of attending the opening of the borough's new, state-of-the-art, nursery school building. The royal borough was honoured to have Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester officially open the new nursery building at St Anne's and Avondale Park Nursery School.

The royal visit took place immediately after the children's lunchtime. No doubt the usual playground banter was interspersed with claim and counter-claim over who might get to meet her.

Playground banter aside, the journey towards the nursery opening began some time ago.

Both Avondale Park Primary School and St Anne's Nursery School have existed for many years in the royal borough. The two schools always shared a commitment to educational excellence while maintaining strong community ties and, in 2014, they made the decision to federate.

Following the federation, the council funded a £2 million construction programme to build the new nursery building on Avondale Park Primary School's spacious Sirdar Road site.

Work on the nursery building began in late 2015 and building works were completed on time and on budget in August 2016 – in time for the first children to arrive that September. And what a stunning new facility they have.

As we toured the two new classrooms, the new nursery entrance and new outdoor playground areas I must say I felt proud of the council's commitment to giving children the best start in life. Education provides the greatest opportunity to make a lifelong difference.

In September, most of the nursery children will be attending one of our 38 primary schools in the borough, of which 95 per cent are judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted.

Both the nursery entrance and playground were resplendent with Union Flag bunting on the day, a fitting welcome for Her Royal Highness.

The Duchess was met by Charles Manners, chairman of governors, before being introduced to the mayor of the royal borough, Cllr Elizabeth Rutherford.

The mayor then accompanied the Duchess as she met head teacher Katy Blackler and other staff, before meeting a number of school pupils lined up along the corridor.

Pupils were on their best behaviour for the occasion as the Duchess asked them about what they were learning and what they thought of the new nursery building.

By now most of the nursery children were back in their classrooms and the royal party toured through nursery classrooms. These modern places of learning have everything from touch-screen televisions, which helped the children to learn about shapes, letters and numbers, to the traditional building blocks and crayons that even I can remember.

We joined both the nursery and school pupils in the school hall to be treated to a performance from the school choir, who sang beautifully.

Katy thanked Her Royal Highness for attending and spoke about how pleased she was to see years of work coming to fruition.

The Duchess highlighted how the new facilities were welcome for nursery children, school pupils, teachers, and staff alike when she said: "I wish everyone who comes to this nursery, whether to teach or to learn, all the very best."

Katy then called for two nursery children to help the Duchess with the important task of unveiling a plaque commemorating the opening of the new nursery building.

The audience was invited to participate in the final performance – a heartfelt rendition of *If You're Happy And You Know It*. With so much to celebrate in the new nursery building, and with educational opportunities in the borough, I'm pleased to say I was clapping along with them.

To contact the leader of the council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email [theleader@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:theleader@rbkc.gov.uk)



Mayor Elizabeth Rutherford cuts the cake to celebrate the new art gallery

## Storage area is art space

A REFURBISHED storage area of Kensington Central Library is being put to colourful use as the recently relocated Holland Park Surgery hosts an exhibition of work from older adults.

The royal borough's £5.8 million refurbishment of the library enabled the less-used storage areas of the building to be used by tenants such as Holland Park Surgery, while also carrying out improvements to ensure the building remains fit for purpose.

The exhibition is hosted by Holland Park Surgery and is in collaboration with Open Age, which supports older adults across Kensington and Chelsea to remain active through a range of physical and mental activities.

Dr Richard Hooker, Holland Park Surgery GP lead for the art project, said: "The seven

artists, each members of Open Age, have produced works inspired by Henri Matisse's *Cut Outs*.

"The practice has chosen to use a bold colour scheme inspired by the palette used in *The Snail*, a large *Cut Out* by Henri Matisse that hangs in Tate Modern.

"The works will be displayed for the foreseeable future at Holland Park Surgery but we aim to rotate the works to other similar settings across the borough in future."

While visiting the exhibition the royal borough's mayor, Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Rutherford, said: "It was wonderful to see both the bold, colourful art on display, as well as the impressively refurbished facilities at Holland Park Surgery. This is a credit both to the artists from Open Age and the surgery staff."

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Sunday:	CLOSED
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Thursday:	CLOSED
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## Fools rushed in...

**T**HE royal borough has finally pulled the plug on the omnishambles of the tri-borough arrangement of shared services with the neighbouring boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham and the City of Westminster.

It will be interesting to see who is set up to take the blame for something that has clearly been failing for the last five years but which has been allowed to limp on while all those who made this disastrous arrangement have quietly tiptoed off the stage – some still clutching the commendations and gongs they were awarded for their pioneering endeavours. They boldly went where no man had gone before and have left their successors to clean up the mess.

The tri-borough experiment was fine in theory – who in any field of endeavour would not want to save money by 'efficiency savings', pooling resources, management and procurement if you can ensure that efficiencies and quality of service can be maintained?

Where it fell down was that those making the arrangements and drawing up the agreements and contracts lacked the expertise to really understand the services that they were seeking to transform, to draw up waterproof contracts, to monitor the contracts and then to enforce them when the chosen providers proved incapable or unwilling to deliver them at the prices they had tendered.

While ultimately it is the cabinet of RBKC who must be collectively held responsible for the failure of tri-borough – and they were repeatedly warned by the opposition and by their own backbenchers that it was going wrong – they were not alone in trusting to privatisation as a panacea for cash shortages in local government.

We are now seeing a general crisis in all public services – prisons, police, hospitals, the courts, social care, care homes and rail – caused by the false idea that letting private companies run things would axiomatically be more efficient and responsive than their public-sector predecessors. This has now been given the lie both nationally and locally.



BY RBKC LABOUR LEADER  
Cllr ROBERT ATKINSON

The companies who have grown up to provide services previously run by local authorities, government agencies or even nationalised industries are now in trouble and many councils and government departments – including our own – having shown themselves incapable of drawing up contracts with external companies and have then been unable to monitor, enforce or amend them effectively.

Locally we have seen this most spectacularly with the tri-borough managed services contract with BT but also with the schools meals contract and the transportation contract for special-needs children – and recently we saw that the council couldn't even get its bus shelter contract right.

All this might be amusing or salutary if the only casualty of the failed experiment of tri-borough working was the bruised egos of cabinet members. But in practice there have been real hardships and losses caused to the often-vulnerable users of borough services.

Skilled and experienced staff have also been made redundant and gone elsewhere – making it difficult and expensive to bring services back 'in house'.

And unfortunately it seems that we have not yet seen the end of collapsed contracts so perhaps the council should look again at delivering vital services itself and not blindly and incompetently trusting to 'the market' to provide.



# Councillor's intervention ends two years of misery

BY GEOFF BAKER  
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

KENSINGTON councillor Emma Dent Coad turned the royal borough's fix-it-in-chief after her intervention ended a two-year run of misery for a disabled tenant at the Catalyst Housing new development in Portobello Square.

The tenant endured a leaking ceiling, damp coming through the walls, black mould, blocked pipes, shoddy workmanship and a floor which collapsed – all was grim and health-threatening, until “Super Em” stepped in.

Cllr Dent Coad took to her blog to blast Catalyst Housing – and within one day of bosses reading her tirade, workmen appeared to fix the problems.

Cllr Dent Coad said: “In late 2014 a tenant moved from their former home on Wornington Green, North Kensington, around the corner to the new development of Portobello Square. The developer is Catalyst Housing Group, the architects PRP and the contractor is Ardmore Construction.

“The top-floor flat had nice views and was suitable for the disabled tenant's needs. However, over the very wet winter that followed, the ceiling leaked into the living room – several times.

“That was eventually fixed and the ceiling repainted but then there was damp coming into the bedroom through the walls. It was discovered that no membrane had been fitted and that was why the damp was seeping through. This was also remediated.

“This was now concerning the tenant who is quite unwell and immune compromised, so susceptible to bacterial, viral and fungal infections, having previously suffered tuberculosis and aspergillosis caused by black mould, where the mould actually grows inside the lungs.

“A further issue arose when the toilet was not flushing properly. After several visits, workmen had to break through the wall to reach the cistern. It was found that an instruction leaflet had been left inside, partially blocking the pipe.

“It was then found that the laminate floor was beginning to buckle in places, creating a potential trip hazard.

“In early February this year another problem arose – there was water leaking upwards between ceramic tiles in the bathroom floor.

“At first the tenant was accused of being a messy bather, or



Cllr Emma Dent Coad in the offending bathroom

of not using the shower curtain. Then it was discovered that the seal between the tiles was leaking.

“When some tiles were removed it was realised that there was a leak coming from pipes below the bath.

“Workmen removed the tiles and left the floor temporarily bare to dry out, before returning to replace with lino.

“Two days later, the disabled tenant stepped into the bathroom, and the floor collapsed. He was lucky not to break his ankle. He contacted Catalyst once again but at the time of writing my blog last week he had not received a response.

“It doesn't bear thinking about

what could have happened when the floor collapsed. It could have been so much worse.

“When I kicked off, the bathroom floor was now covered in black mould and had a huge hole in it.

“I am simply appalled at the very poor construction quality of this flat which was endangering the health of a very poorly and disabled person who wants to remain anonymous but who deserves better.”

Cllr Dent Coad says that she has had “innumerable” reports of problems in the new flats, ranging from damp, leaks and dodgy electrics to two ceiling collapses.

She said: “This floor collapse was an alarming new departure.

“I have contacted environmental health and Catalyst but I can't help worrying that if this happens again there could be a very nasty accident.

“These buildings are barely three years old. One day I met a workman who had come to repair a problem in one of the flats. He told me that in his opinion this block won't last 10 years. Given the cost of these flats – £620,000 for a one-bedroom apartment – people must be told what is going on here.

“Catalyst Housing Group have won awards for Portobello Square. They say in their promotion that Portobello Square is ‘successful and established’. In reality the quality of the workmanship is somewhat open to question.”

After this newspaper drew the attention of Catalyst to the complaints, repairs were made rapidly.

Tim Porter, regeneration manager at Catalyst, said: “We are aware of a leak at one of the flats on Bonchurch Road and I'd like to take this opportunity to apologise for any inconvenience caused to our resident.

“Repairs began within a day of hearing of Cllr Dent Coad's intervention and we will be working towards resolving this issue at the earliest opportunity.

“Like most new buildings, Bonchurch Road has had a few issues early in its life. However, we are taking the necessary steps to ensure these are resolved as quickly as possible.

“We host a monthly drop-in session where residents can come and chat to me about any issue in their home. We have had great feedback from people who have moved in and we will be welcoming more residents into their new homes at Hardy Mansions in the coming weeks.

“Once complete, Portobello Square will have approximately 1,000 new homes in a street layout that reconnects the neighbourhood to the surrounding areas. As well as developing homes for sale and shared ownership, we will be re-providing social rented housing for all of the current residents.”

Cllr Dent Coad said: “After a call from the Press, Catalyst fixed the floor in record time. But they are patching up work that has been done badly in the first place. Several other homes have dodgy bathroom tiles. Let's hope no-one else puts their foot through the floor.”

## Millionaire actor gives careers advice to kids

A KENSINGTON school has hit on a novel way of giving young people careers advice – hiring Russell Brand as an example of excellence.

The millionaire actor, comedian, activist and former heroin user who recently helped spark 150 complaints to Ofcom when he swore live on *Comic Relief* was the star turn at the Epic Learning School for National Careers Week.

Following a bright idea from Epic CIC Careers Guidance team, Russell, the pin-up activist and star of *St Trinian's* whose career has included a long courtship with controversy, gave jobs tips to a group of young people and taught how to find “lasting peace”.

Epic CIC, a youth service located in Kensington and Chelsea, welcomed Russell to the Epic Learning School to talk to a group of youngsters who are no longer in mainstream education.

“Russell gave an extremely honest speech discussing a variety of issues from drug use, adult relationships and how he overcame the wrong decisions he made as a young person and adult,” said a spokesman.

“He spoke about how money, fame and a materialistic lifestyle can't fulfil you and encouraged the young people to take control of their lives and listen to their inner voices to find lasting peace.”

Vicki Harrison-Carr, Epic Learning principal and ambition manager, hosted the talk.

She said: “Much of what Russell said resonated with our students. His honest portrayal of the bad decisions he made in his past is something that the young people in attendance welcomed and could relate to.

“I saw a couple of lightbulb moments when he was talking about certain issues and I hope his visit will inspire the students to take control of their future. A huge thank you to Russell for taking the time out to visit us.”

Armani, 15, an Epic Learning student who also attended the talk, said: “Russell was really inspirational. He showed me that I can still succeed in my future, even though I've made a couple of mistakes in my life – you should never give up.”

Russell said: “Through community and love we can create opportunity, a positive and loving facility.”

Ms Harrison-Carr said: “It's great to see high-profile individuals getting behind Epic's work as it helps to reinforce our message to young service users.

“It helps them realise that if people like Russell Brand can change their narrative, then why can't they?”

## Fancy joining arts grants advisory panel?

KENSINGTON & Chelsea council's arts service is looking for new members of its arts grants advisory panel.

Residents aged over 18 who have a sound knowledge of the arts, or work as an artist, are urged to apply for the voluntary, unpaid role.

The panel supports the decision-making process for funding applications from artists and arts organisations to the council's Arts Grants Scheme.

Members are expected to attend two meetings a year and contribute to the annual review of the scheme which is conducted each June.

They are also encouraged to visit projects that have been awarded funding through the scheme.

Recent activities which the panel advised on include the Earl's Court Film Festival and a project in which local resident and playwright Natasha Langridge worked with residents of North Kensington to create a new play.

To apply, contact Jennifer Wood by email at jennifer.wood@rbkc.gov.uk. Send a cover letter of no more than one side of A4 and an up-to-date CV. The deadline for applications is Friday (April 7).

PUPILS at a Shepherd's Bush primary proved they've got serious talent when they performed at their school's annual talent show, *The W Factor*.

The *W Factor* is Wendell Park Primary School's answer to ITV's *The X Factor*. Children aged six to 11 performed various types of dancing – Irish, Spanish and tap – and sang hit songs by pop stars including Justin Bieber, Adele and Cyndi Lauper, in front of a packed house of 250 parents, staff and supporters.

“In the end, it was a literary performance that secured the 11th *W Factor* trophy after Ruby Green (Year 4) wowed the judges with her pitch-perfect performance of Dahl's rather gruesome, revolting rhyme *Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf*,” said a spokesman.

“It was a wonderful evening,” said Rachel Herve,

## Primary pupils have *The W Factor*

parent of Jules and Spike at the Cobbold Road school.

“The children were all amazing. There's definitely lots of wow in Wendell's *W Factor*.”

There were 11 acts. The judges awarded additional prizes for best original piece – which was scooped by Year 5 pupil Asia McFarlane for her tap dancing. Anya Yacef (Year 6) was awarded best solo act for her fantastic singing and duo Wissal Mezidi and Anila Berisha (both Year 5) won best group.

The judging panel of Fiona Putnam from theatre company Infinite Jest, Year 5 teacher Nick Morgan, and Fola Phillip, head of The Reggae Choir, joined

Wendell Park's former head teacher – and Reggae Choir member – Sheila Mears.

“The night's entertainment was led by pupils Talula Pye and Hannin Al-Zubaidi, with help from compere Henry Everett who made the audience laugh and dab at the same time,” said the spokesman.

“Even the teachers got in on the fun with Miss Fairclough, Miss Martin, Mr Crawford and Mr Bailey performing. Making a surprise appearance the quartet staged an elegant 1930s-style tea dance, complete with vintage dresses for the gals and flat caps for the guys.”



# Library plans get green light

BY GEOFF BAKER  
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PLANS for a new North Kensington Library and Youth Centre have been given the green light by Kensington and Chelsea's planning committee – effectively ending the much-fought campaign to keep the existing Victorian building for public use.

The council says: "Construction is expected to start during the summer and residents can look forward to the new, bigger, better library and youth centre opening by 2020."

Unless there are appeals against the planning decision, the current library will remain open until the new one, 50m away on Lancaster Road, is ready for use. After that the building will be leased by the council to the Notting Hill Preparatory School.

Last year the council earmarked more than £18 million to pay for the scheme, highlights of which include:

- a larger library floor space – 829 sq m (compared with a current area of 580 sq m) to accommodate an improved selection of books, magazines and newspapers, a reading room and informal activity space;
- the new library arranged all on the ground floor, making it easier for wheelchair users, buggies and people with reduced mobility to navigate;
- a dedicated children's library and more quiet study space;
- more meeting rooms and spaces for adult education classes and local organisations to use;
- an improved youth centre;
- a rooftop games area for sport and recreation, with dedicated changing facilities available for building users and the wider community;
- a range of energy-efficiency measures to reduce maintenance and running costs.

Commenting on the plans, Cllr Emma Will, cabinet member for education and libraries, said: "At a time when libraries up and down the country have been closed, this council has decided to invest many millions in building a new North Kensington Library that will, in library terms, be superior in every way. Not only that but our young people will be able to enjoy a new youth centre which will serve their needs much better."

"Developing this underused site on Lancaster Road will also help us meet the financial challenges we are likely to face for many years to come. Much-needed income will be generated from letting out commercial space in the new library and leasing the old library which will be used to help us preserve frontline services."

The new library has been designed by architects Piercy&Company and the development is being managed by contractors Mace Group. For more information on the new North Kensington Library and Youth Centre, visit [nklibrary.org.uk](http://nklibrary.org.uk).

# Points of view

Have  
your say

Email Geoff Baker  
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

## Library battle

LAST week the RBKC planning committee ignored the manifold grounds for objecting made by the local community and the legitimate concerns about air pollution and worsening traffic disruption and voted in favour of proceeding with the building of a new library/youth centre/private education classrooms in Lancaster Road.

This decision brings the closure of our much-loved existing North Kensington Library a step closer as those with power at the council hand over their 125-year-old building over to their friends at the Notting Hill Prep School Ltd.

The new generic office block will clash with the two listed buildings nearby. People will only be happy to be in it as, from the inside, they will not be able to see it.

These are the few groups this decision displeases:

- library users and staff;
- youth-centre users and staff;
- everyone else except those on the gravy train making money out of educational provision and thereby widening social division.

The public currently has 100 per cent use of two fine buildings. With this decision it will lose North Kensington's icon completely and be granted 40 per cent use of an office block.

The council boasted in 2015 increased numbers of people using our library

and yet the same council now states it is "unfit for purpose" and "outmoded". This is called reading from a script prepared by those whose duty is to sweating public assets to make money for shareholders.

It is a library. You walk in, you browse the books, you get a book out, you leave. That's my purpose usually. Is that out of date, out of fashion? It is a library, from librum the Latin, for a book.

The youth centre alongside the library and the prep school is a combustible and an inappropriate blend of the haves and the have-nots.

It has got this far due to the neoliberals in command in Hornston Street.

In Book 6 of the *Iliad*, Glaucón exchanges with Diomedes his gold armour worth 100 oxen for bronze armour worth nine oxen.

Homer's justification: Zeus had stolen his wits.

The 11 councillors who voted in favour of this act of selling the public short have no excuse. They have failed in their duty to safeguard council assets to pass them on to the next generation. They are spineless, gutless, corporate lackies.

Sebastian Peattie  
North Kensington

## BBC funding

IT was with considerable consternation that I read (in the *Chelsea & Kensington News*) Geoff Baker's proposal for the funding of the BBC via a pay-per-view model

I too am getting "older and grumpier" and I too am often frustrated by the lack of BBC programmes that appeal to me but I am more than happy to pay my annual licence fee.

In 2015, 96.5 per cent of UK 16+ population watched or listened to some BBC programming every week.

In 2016, the BBC's global audience was close to 350 million per week. Some 35 million watched the news service in Nigeria, for example, 12 million in Iran and seven million in Afghanistan. I'm not an imperialist – far from it – but I can't help but feel that is a good thing on so many levels, not least because those three countries sit, respectively, at 118, 168 and 120 in the Reporters Without Borders, World Press Freedom rankings.

As many people have pointed out, not least since last month's atrocity in London, a struggle is taking place between the definitions of "them" and "us".

Speaking at the funeral of Martin McGuinness in Derry, Mr Clinton described him as a person who "expanded the definition of 'us' and shrank the

definition of 'them'." A pay-per-view model, by definition, drives a greater wedge between "us" and "them".

Moreover, if unsupported by the subscription and advertising incomes that actually underpin Sky's business (not pay-per-view), the model would undoubtedly diminish the BBC's total budget. And then it wouldn't just be the people of Afghanistan that would suffer; it would be those of the UK too.

I have never visited Dorset, just as Mr Baker has never visited Serbia, but I do know that he has been to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. I pay council tax in RBKC. That council tax funds all manner of services, including keeping the streets lit and clean. I don't resent his use of services that I pay for. I welcome visitors, wherever they may be from.

The Centre for Economics and Business Research has shown that one in every £5 earned by Londoners is used to fund the rest of the nation by way of income tax. I don't resent that either. The South West would be plunged further into debt were the support of Londoners to be cut off, with appalling consequences for public services – consequences that would break my heart.

If Mr Baker's proposal for the BBC were to become reality, it is only a few short steps before I ask him for a contribution to my council-tax payments every time he visits London. May I suggest 40p per day? Of course, should I ever visit Dorset I would reciprocate.

John Lowery  
Portobello

## Young writers

CALLING all young writers – the National Young Writers' Awards has returned bigger and better than ever before as author, TV presenter and adventurer Steve Backshall has been named judge for 2017.

The competition, organised by tuition provider Explore Learning which has a centre in Fulham, has been running for nine years and has inspired hundreds of thousands of children across the UK to put pen to paper and give writing a try.

This year's theme is The Future – children are encouraged to write a 500-word story set in 3017. Whether that means we're families living in space, robots ruling the world or new species of animal roaming the wild, Explore Learning want to hear from you.

As well as being a TV

presenter and adventurer, Steve Backshall is the author of *The Falcon Chronicles*, the best-selling adventure fiction series for children which follows eco-warriors Saker and Sinter around the globe as they fight to save endangered animals. The series is made up of *Tiger Wars*, *Ghosts of the Forest*, *Wilds of the Wolf* and *Shark Seas*, released in October 2016.

Steve says: "Writing was my first love and I think it's so important for children to let their imaginations run wild and have a go at entering writing competitions like this. You're often told to write about what you know... so broaden your experience, learn as much as you can about the wild world in order to better protect it. I can't wait to read the stories that the children come up with. The theme of The Future gives us so much scope for the weird and wonderful."

The competition runs from until Friday May 5 and children from all over the UK are encouraged to enter – from eager young authors to those a little more reluctant.

The winner will be surprised in a school assembly by Steve who will announce the National Young Writer of the Year and present them with a trophy, a trip to Disneyland Paris for their family and £500 worth of books for their school.

The top 10 runners-up will win an engraved pen from National Stationery Week sponsors Sheaffer. All regional winners will receive prize bundles with goodies from National Stationery Week partners Nu notebooks, Mustard, edding, Maped Helix, Write Size, Manuscript and Stabilo.

It's very easy to enter. Children are invited to write a story set in 3017 in under 500 words and post it to NYWA, Explore Learning, 74 North Street, Guildford, GU1 4AW, or online at [explorellearning.co.uk/youngwriters](http://explorellearning.co.uk/youngwriters). Don't forget to include your contact information so they can get in touch if your child wins.

Previous judges of the National Young Writers' Awards have included some of the UK's most prolific authors like Cressida Cowell, Lauren Child, Liz Pichon, Jonathan Meres, Andy Cope and Alan Durant. Last year's winner was 11-year-old Gracie Harding, of Winchester, who wowed *Charlie & Lola* author Lauren Child with her story *Happy Never After*.

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# your letters and emails

months, Explore Learning will be providing some top writing tips from their creative writing team, previous winners, judges and best-selling authors via their website, social media and face to face. They will be running free workshops with local libraries, schools and community groups to inspire children's love of writing.

For more information about the National Young Writers' Awards, visit [explorellearning.co.uk/youngwriters](http://explorellearning.co.uk/youngwriters) or pop into your local centre at 25 Townmead Road, Fulham, London, SW6 2GD.

**Claire McInerney  
Fulham**

## Bowel cancer

ON average, only 45 per cent of people living in London who are sent the bowel cancer screening test for free in the post actually complete it.

Bowel Cancer UK, the UK's leading bowel cancer research charity, is encouraging people living in the region to take part in the screening programme as part of Bowel Cancer Awareness Month this month.

In April alone across the UK, nearly 3,500 people will be diagnosed with bowel cancer and more than 1,300 people will die from the disease.

It's the nation's second-biggest cancer killer – however, it shouldn't be.

It's treatable and curable, especially if diagnosed early. Uptake rates for bowel cancer screening are extremely low, with huge variations across London.

Eight out of 10 areas in England with the lowest uptake areas are in London.

The bottom five areas that need to see the most improvement are Newham (37 per cent), Central London (Westminster) (37 per cent), West London (Kensington & Chelsea and Queen's Park & Paddington) (37 per cent), Tower Hamlets (37 per cent) and Southwark (38 per cent).

The top five areas with the highest uptake are Bromley (55 per cent), Havering (54 per cent), Richmond (53 per cent), Bexley (53 per cent) and Sutton (53 per cent).

The NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme can detect bowel cancer at an early stage in people with no symptoms when it is easier to treat and a greater chance of survival.

If you're registered with a GP and aged 60 to 74, you will receive a test in the post every two years.

You carry out the simple test at home in private and it comes with step-by-step instructions. The test looks for hidden blood in your

poo, which could be an early sign of bowel cancer.

In 2018, England will replace the current screening test with a simpler and more accurate test – faecal immunochemical test.

FIT is a more sensitive test than the current one, and has the potential to detect more cancers and pre-cancerous polyps as well as increasing screening participation.

Bowel Cancer Awareness Month is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of taking part in bowel cancer screening.

Bowel Cancer UK's award-winning health promotion team is looking for workplaces and community groups in the local area to host a talk about screening in April.

The 30-minute talk is delivered by a trained health promotion volunteer, who often has a personal experience of bowel cancer.

The programme, which was awarded a Health and Wellbeing Award by the Royal Society of Public Health, stresses the importance of those who are of screening age to take the bowel cancer screening test, raises awareness of the disease as well as good bowel health, and highlights the symptoms and risks.

If you're interested in

hosting a talk at your workplace, community group and any other place that has an existing group or charity, visit [bowelcanceruk.org.uk/bookatalk](http://bowelcanceruk.org.uk/bookatalk) or email [volunteer@bowelcanceruk.org](mailto:volunteer@bowelcanceruk.org).

To find out more about bowel cancer and screening, visit [bowelcanceruk.org.uk](http://bowelcanceruk.org.uk)

**Francesca Toma  
Bowel Cancer UK**

## Brave bobbies

LIKE all decent Londoners I was horrified and saddened by the terror attack on Westminster Bridge and the gates of Parliament and I was glad to read your story reporting city leaders united in their resolve that the terrorists will not beat us.

As they have said, throughout history many have attempted to crush London before and all of them have failed; Hitler, the IRA, they've all been seen off and I have no doubt that we will rid ourselves of this Islamist threat to our freedoms too.

I do hope that these same leaders – the mayor of London and the leaders of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham councils – will now show us the same resolve in fighting and hopefully defeating the government funding cuts which now threaten to

deplete the strength of the Met by up to one tenth.

At this most dangerous time we cannot afford to lose any more of our brave police officers. They are our line of defence, in their hands is our safety.

Photographs and footage of the shocking events of the Westminster attack show that they run towards the threat of death and injury whilst the rest of us run away.

We need many more of these men and women of such commendable courage, not many less, and the capital's leaders should now make a stand to insist that the money is found to fund the Met to a strength appropriate to the risks we face.

**Albert Miller  
Soho**

## Noisy Kensington

I WAS not in the least bit surprised to read that Kensington & Chelsea has been named London's top borough for complaints about noise.

The din and racket caused by the incessant building in the royal borough in recent years has become intolerable and many of us residents have considered moving out because of it.

I was very pleased that the council recently instituted new rules forbidding building work at

weekends, which is fine for those who are away from their homes working in The City and elsewhere during the week.

But for those of us who are retired and at home for most of the week, the building din is too much to bear and more needs to be done to prevent us being driven mad by the noise of builders and, as will happen soon, the vroom-vroom of rich boy racers who come here from foreign lands just to make our lives a misery by speeding all over the royal borough in supercars that their daddies bought them.

I know the council is doing a lot to fight the rising noise levels but perhaps more severe action could be taken.

Could, for instance, there be a new rule that only a set number of developments be allowed in the borough at any one time and, in the case of the boy racers, instead of slapping them with on-the-spot fines that they can effortlessly afford to pay, could those who cause such grief and irritation in their supercars have their licences revoked and they be banned from driving here?

If they want to show off in their own countries, fine. But don't do it here.

**Sheila Williams  
Kensington**



## Geoff Baker

**W**HEN they closed the JustGiving page for PC Keith Palmer last week, the total donated for his wife and little girl had reached £736,000.

The appeal was launched hours after the appalling tragedy of Westminster and the original intention was to try to raise £10,000 to help see Mrs Palmer through.

But 34,571 people were so moved, shaken and angered by what took place at the gates of Parliament that they knocked that original target into a cocked hat.

Who says this is not just the greatest but also the most loving city in the world?

Well done you who gave. Well done you doctors and nurses who sprinted across the bridge into the thick of it. Well done you officers who ran out to confront a madman who had just butchered one of your own. Well done the many heroes of the day – too many to list but we all know and respect who you are. Well done all of the politicians who set such a good and firm example.

Well done all who went to Trafalgar Square. Well done

Acting Met Commissioner Craig Mackey for that introduction, "thank you for coming here tonight to show the true nature of our city".

Well done Amber Rudd, "they will not defeat us, we will defeat them".

And although Sadiq Khan has been criticised for the relaxed delivery of his speech, I loved it, that was priceless. The Chief's standing there to attention on the steps and Sadiq comes on and does it all clearly off the cuff – with his hand in his pocket.

How utterly Londoner was that?

"Our response shows the world what it means to be a Londoner." Dead right. That's us, stuff you John.

But most of all well done Keith Palmer for taking on a nuttier with knives, unarmed. Because it's not like 'Oh I'll easily win this' goes through your head at tragic moments like that, unarmed. That takes guts.

The selfless example of PC Palmer, whose funeral will take place at Southwark Cathedral at 2pm on Monday, April 10, deserves every penny coming to his family in respect and gratitude

for his bravery. But Keith Palmer deserves more than our money. He also deserves us doing something about it. He deserves that his was the supreme sacrifice because it changed things.

We have to change things. Yes, we are a city of love. But now we have to be a city of hard love.

And that means whilst we must lay our flowers, light our candles, have our vigils, change our profile pic on Facebook and do all that we must, and it's allowed, to grieve, we must also now look among us to those we suspect, and turn them in.

Somebody knew something about that Wednesday or about him doing the likes of that Wednesday, somebody had a feeling he wasn't right, nobody is that much of a loner.

And somebody else now knows something else, has just a gut about it, about somebody else, somebody who hasn't done anything yet but who has been so radicalised that others kind of feel that they will.

To tell you the truth, that's not me. I don't have many Muslim mates, two to be exact, and both of them are as about devout as

Casanova. So I can't turn anybody in because I don't move in those circles.

But another community can. A lot of people have been skirting around this because, quite right, the last thing we need now is any bashing, you can cut that right out, but it is logical to suggest London's Islamic community is in a much better position to know who the extremists are than I am.

Easy to say, and if it was my son or my dad or my wife or my mate whom I suspected of being up to no good I would find it impossible to turn them in. I'd rather turn myself in for plots that I wasn't making.

But that wouldn't do any good. And if my hunch was right and I didn't say anything, I could next be giving a tearful eulogy at their funeral.

Because "we will defeat them" and "our response" doesn't mean any of that "Pray For London" stuff. This is London; we fight, hard. We didn't beat all those who've come to it with us before by being pansies. We'll have you mate.

You can try every trick in the book but we'll have you. London

doesn't mess about and anybody who tries anything now will be shot.

That is the reality of not showing hard love now. If we know it, or maybe just feel it, phone the Old Bill. Because you could be saving the life of a friend, son or father who might otherwise be the next to end up on the front pages, dead.

There is no dishonour in this. As Sadiq said in an interview during which the BBC appeared to be almost prosecuting him for the shock horror of being both a mayor and a muslim, the jerks of this world, like the fanatic of Westminster, are not true believers. They are about as Islamic as my cat.

But given their ludicrous interpretation of the faith, they believe that they are true believers.

They believe that they are all King Islam of Islamland, that we've got it wrong, not them, and two plus two is six.

The brave sacrifice of Keith Palmer deserves that those who know better than I do should make that call. A brave man deserves it.



# Royals given new protection

BY BEN CUSACK

PRIORITY protection has been given to the Queen and the Royal Family in the wake of the Westminster Bridge atrocity.

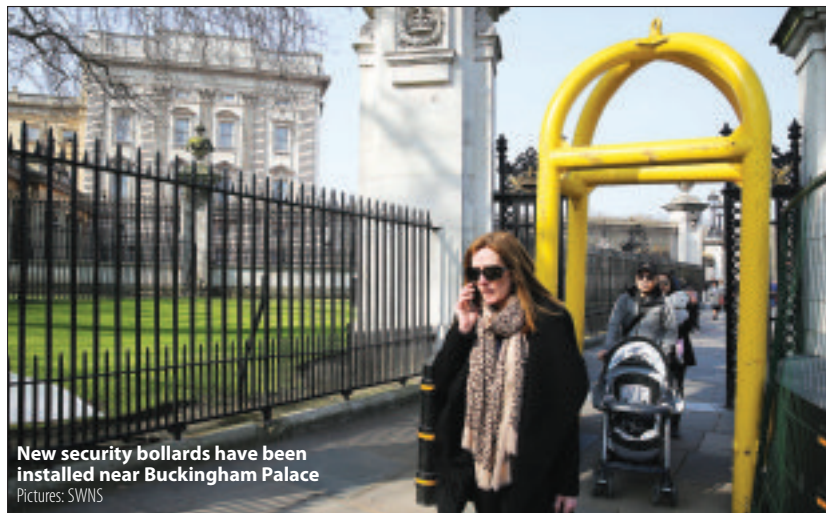
A giant ring of huge metal bollards has been installed outside Buckingham Palace to stop Westminster-style terror attacks, by preventing cars from driving on the pavement.

Security has been beefed up across the capital in the wake of the Westminster terror attack – but some of the toughest barriers have been put

out near the Queen’s palace. Huge steel bollards and barriers have also been erected at Windsor Castle.

The measures coincide with blast- and bullet-resistant trucks being stationed in Westminster as police-officer numbers double in a bid to prevent lone-wolf terror atrocities.

They are patrolling major tourist spots and stations, and the heavy-duty yellow metal bollards are designed to allow people to walk past – but prevent cars from driving along the pavements.



New security bollards have been installed near Buckingham Palace  
Pictures: SWNS

The surge in the number of armed and un-armed officers was announced by the Metropolitan Police to reassure Londoners following last month’s attack, in which four people died and around 50 were injured.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: “It’s security measures put in place but not in response to any threat.

“Buckingham Palace is obviously a very high-profile area that is going to benefit from them.

“There is no intelligence to suggest a threat to these spots.”

The bright arches, as well as steel barriers on the Mall, appeared overnight on the paved area linking Green Park and Constitution Hill.

## Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

### Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

#### pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Phillimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Portobello Rd Market Office	72 Tavistock Road		W11 1AN
Tesco Metro	114-120 Notting Hill Gate	Notting Hill	W11 3QE
Sainsbury's Store	Ladbroke Grove		W10 5AA
Tesco Metro	224-226 Portobello Road	Notting Hill	W11 1LJ
Co-op Store	210-212 Earls Court Road	Kensington	SW5 9QB

### Fulham Chronicle

#### pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX
Avenmore Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG
Fulham Good Neighbours	70 Rosalind Road		SW6 7QT

### Hammersmith CHRONICLE

#### pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

### Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE

#### pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS



## Borough is usurped in hanky-panky stakes

SEX cheats in Kensington and Chelsea are getting more faithful.

After topping a poll to be outed as London’s most adulterous area last year, now the royal borough has slipped into second place.

Islington has taken the crown as hankiest of the pankiest with almost six per cent of adult residents – some 11,778 – cheating on their partner, according to a survey by IllicitEncounters.com, a dating site for married people.



But residents of Kensington and Chelsea clearly still like a bit of extra-curricular nookie, with 9,430 people, 5.3 per cent of local adults, at it behind their partner’s back – marginally naughtier than

couples in Hammersmith and Fulham, where 8,896 are said to be cheating.

At the other end of the scale, Ealing is named London’s most faithful borough, with just 1.7 per cent of its population, or 5,979 people, being unfaithful.

According to the website, soaring house prices are to blame for the boom in extra-marital affairs as unhappy couples cannot afford to split up and set up two homes, and so are seeking “discreet” fun elsewhere.



# We'll keep fighting for hospital

**Stephen Cowan** leader of **Hammersmith & Fulham council**



BACK in February 2013, Conservative councillors claimed they had "saved" Charing Cross Hospital, having agreed with government health chiefs that it would be demolished, that most of the land would be sold off and that it would be replaced by clinics that would take up less than 13 per cent the space of the original hospital.

There was no guarantee of what would be in these clinics or what they would do but the Conservatives and senior NHS bureaucrats had all agreed on one thing back then: these small clinics would be called a "local hospital".

It wouldn't necessarily have any acute care beds or an A&E department that could deal with blue-light emergencies. They simply figured the public would find this misuse of the word "hospital" reassuring. They didn't.

In fact, the public weren't taken in at all. In 2014, they elected my fellow Labour councillors and me into administration and booted the Conservatives out.

We were hired by our resi-

dents to ensure Hammersmith & Fulham council fiercely defends Charing Cross Hospital. That is precisely what we have been doing ever since.

One action we took was to arrange an independent public inquiry led by the eminent Michael Mansfield QC along with Ealing and other West London councils.

Evidence was reviewed and hearings were carried out across the region.

The government's proposals for Charing Cross Hospital simply didn't stack up and the Mansfield Commission called on health chiefs to halt their plans.

But those in charge of our NHS have not listened and still intend to implement their flawed plan which they hope to start in just over four years' time.

They have consistently said they would publish their business case for Charing Cross Hospital and then failed to do so, thus depriving the council and local people of crucial information.

The most recent figures show

growing waiting times and a huge spike in A&E attendance at Charing Cross. Their approach appears reckless.

Last week, NHS bureaucrats objected to our local campaign to save Charing Cross Hospital.

Their rationale appears to be that while their plans will see the loss of 300 beds, it could have a unit for our frail, elderly citizens, with some rehab beds, an outpatient unit and an urgent-care centre and is still most likely to be known as a "local hospital".

This explanation is similar to demolishing someone's house only to tell them we have in fact saved their house because the new shed we've given them will be known henceforth as a "localised house". It is nonsense.

These highly-paid NHS bureaucrats, whom we pay for through our taxes, owe the British people straight answers instead of this disingenuous guff.

That's how it's meant to work in our democracy.

Meanwhile, my colleagues and I will continue to defend Charing Cross Hospital.



## Official launch marks positive start for My Care, My Way

THE official launch of the My Care, My Way service at the Violet Melchett Integrated Care Centre, Flood Walk, Chelsea, was met with a positive response when it took place on Wednesday.

The deputy mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Cllr William Pascal, was in attendance and cut the ceremonial ribbon in front of all those present, after a brief speech in which he talked about the importance of joined-up health and wellbeing for patients.

Chairman of West London Clinical Commissioning Group, Dr Fiona Butler, also gave a speech in which she noted the importance of patients being at the centre of their own care.

She also acknowledged that the current My Care, My Way model may be extended to other groups if it continues to prove itself as successful with over-65s.

Those in attendance were able to take a tour of the centre, view the community artworks created by the Association for Cultural Advancement through Visual

Art, hear about the new health and social care services available, and ask questions.

They were also able to make use of the special massage chair on site, as well as trial the reflexology on offer.

My Care, My Way has been rolled out gradually over the past 12 months and it is now fully bedded in at both the Violet Melchett Integrated Care Centre and at the St Charles Integrated Care Centre, Exmoor Street in Central London.

After receiving fantastic feedback from patients regarding the service, the launch was a great way to celebrate My Care, My Way as a fully fledged part of the Violet Melchett Integrated Care Centre, said a spokesman for the NHS CWHHE Collaborative of Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Dr Butler said: "These hubs are very much a part of the community, so it is great that we are able to keep improving patient care by introducing a well-received service like My Care, My Way."



Artix in Woolwich is just one of the businesses looking forward to the festival

## See a bit moor with Tall Ships tickets

Sail Royal Greenwich is offering special tickets to all Greenwich residents who want to get on board the largest of the vessels taking part in the Tall Ships Festival.

Visits to the Tall Ships berthed at the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich are free but tickets are required to travel to those which will be moored further out in the river at Maritime Greenwich.

A discount is being offered to Greenwich residents for the first 1,000 tickets, which will cost £4 each. The price on the day is £10 for adults, £8 for children and £30 for a family of four (two adults, two children).

The ticket price includes a ferry ride from Greenwich Pier to one of the three largest participating tall ships at this year's regatta. Visitors will have about 45 minutes to explore the ship and hear all about Greenwich's maritime history from one of the on-board guides before returning to Greenwich Pier on the ferry shuttle.

The ferry departs every 20 minutes from 9.30am to 4.45pm, from Thursday, April 13 to Saturday, April 15, and 9.30am to noon on Sunday, April 16.

Businesses across Greenwich are getting ready for the huge influx of visitors expected to visit the borough for the

Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta taking place over the Easter weekend.

The last event in 2014 attracted more than 1 million visitors and brought in more than £17million in additional spending giving a major boost to the economy.

As well as the spectacle of the Tall Ships moored at the festival villages at Greenwich and Woolwich, there will also be activities, performances and events across the borough. Entertainment includes live music from jazz to flamenco, face-painting, clowns and bouncy castles, art exhibitions, choirs and individual performers – and probably some pirates thrown in for good measure!

Councillor Sizwe James, cabinet member for transport, economy and smart cities, said: "I would like to thank our businesses and entrepreneurs who have so generously agreed to sponsor the 50 local young people who have been recruited to act as crew on a tall ship on the first leg of the regatta, to Sines in Portugal. This is a wonderful life experience.

"Our thanks go to Peabody, U+I, Port of London Authority, London City Cruise Port and the event's official charity partners, Seafarers UK and the Sea Cadets."

ROYAL GREENWICH  
**Tall Ships Festival**  
13-16 April 2017

Four days of music, ship visits and fireworks at:

- **Greenwich Festival Village**
- **Woolwich Festival Village**



For further information  
or to book a river cruise:  
[www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/tallships](http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/tallships)

Royal Greenwich Tall Ships Festival nominated charities





## Police appeal after glassing

SHOCKING footage shows the moment a man was glassed in the face in a busy bar – on Christmas Eve.

Detectives have released the CCTV in a bid to trace the suspected attacker.

The 38-year-old victim was left with cuts across his nose and left eyebrow following the attack at Be at One bar in Leicester Square.

He was taken to a Central London hospital and later discharged.

Video footage shows a man approach the victim and swiftly swing an empty glass into his face several times before fleeing the scene.

The attack took place at about 1.30am on December 24, police said.

The suspect is described as a dark-skinned man in his late 20s, 6ft tall, and wearing a long-sleeved shirt and light-coloured trainers.

DC Edward Colenbrander, of Westminster CID, said: "This is a shocking incident that has left the victim very distressed."

"We are keen to identify his assailant shown in the CCTV footage so we can speak to him about the incident."

"We would also urge anyone who witnessed the incident to contact us."

No arrests have been made and inquiries continue.



**Police want to speak with this man in connection with the incident**

## Big audience at kids' show

YOUNG people from the Victory Youth Group's Hammersmith branch made extensive use of social media to attract a big audience to see the *Queen of Hearts*, their show about relationships.

Tireless campaigning on such platforms as Snapchat, WhatsApp and Facebook, face-to-face contact and leafleting drew more than 100 youths from Hammersmith, Fulham, Shepherd's Bush, White City, Ealing and Acton to the show.

Organised by youth leader, Kai Lily, and VYG members, and performed at the UCKG HelpCentre in Hammersmith Broadway, *Queen of Hearts* centred around a group of teenage friends and highlighted the challenges faced by today's young people and the decisions they make, drawing on painful experiences and peer pressure, said a spokesman.

She said: "The drama concluded with the main characters doing some serious soul searching and self-reflection, while taking action to regain control of their life."

"The show took place against the background of the current Home Office Disrespect NoBody campaign. This aims to help boys and girls from the age of 12 understand the nature of a healthy relationship and rethink their views of controlling behaviour, violence, abuse, sexual abuse and the meaning of consent. The aim is to prevent the onset of domestic violence in adults by challenging attitudes and behaviours among young people that abuse in relationships is acceptable."

Audience members said the show had a significant effect on this thinking.

# Dilapidated mews house just 3ft deep sells for £810,000

BY ADRIAN HEARN

A DILAPIDATED mews house which is less than 3ft deep at one end has been sold for a staggering £810,000.

The Knightsbridge property has a 65ft-wide frontage – wider than most mansions in the capital – but is shaped like a corridor and is just a few feet deep at one end.

It was lived in for more than 50 years by Linda Wildoner, an Austrian who moved to London after the Second World War.

Ms Wildoner was a carer for the famous Poliakoff family and took pride in the single-storey property, creating a beautiful garden out on the mews cobbles.

But she died in 2010 aged 94 and the property, on Ennismore Gardens Mews, is now a wreck which needs to be fully renovated and remodelled.

Savills Auctions sold it on behalf of the executors last week for £810,000 – which works out at almost £2,900 per sq/ft.

The price paid is four times as much as the average home in England and Wales and the buyer will be paying a further £54,000 in stamp duty.

Chris Coleman-Smith, head of auctions at Savills, said: "We always see a great deal of interest at auction for prime Central London properties requiring renovation. They tend to be the ones that create a real sense of buzz in the room."

"1B Ennismore Gardens Mews is completely one-of-a-kind and unlike anything else I have seen before in the auction room – a mews house with great refurbishment potential in Knightsbridge."

"The buyer is working with a blank canvas and a space that could be completely transformed so it will be very interesting to see what they do with it next. The end result is sure to be something truly special."



The dilapidated property in Knightsbridge Pictures: Adam Gray/SWNS



Kate Grey

## GB Paralympic star backing sports day

FORMER GB Paralympic swimmer Kate Grey will be supporting the Easter Sports Day, an event encouraging young, disabled people to get active through a range of sports activities, at the Kensington Leisure Centre tomorrow (Wednesday).

The free event, from 10.30am to 2.30pm and organised by Disability Sports Coach, will feature drop-in sport activities ranging from cricket, cycling and wheelchair dance to the new boxercise. The focus will turn to friendly competition, with cricket and new-age curling – an indoor adaptation of curling – taking place in the afternoon.

Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea cabinet member for environment, environmental health and leisure Cllr Tim Ahern said: "Events like the Easter Sports Day are a great way to encourage all people to focus on their abilities and what they can do, not on their disabilities."

"We are especially pleased that

Paralympian swimmer Kate Grey will be there to cheer on participants. I am sure her success can inspire others to fulfil their potential.

"I encourage young people with a disability, or anyone who is interested, to drop in and take part."

Kate, who won silver in the breaststroke at the 2008 Paralympics, said: "I'm really looking forward to supporting the Easter Sports Day event as it is a chance to have a go at sports and activities that you may never have tried before."

"Disability Sports Coach are brilliant at providing endless opportunities for people with disabilities that in the past would have been ignored or overlooked. The event will cater for all needs and abilities and most importantly be a lot of fun."

Since 2013, Disability Sports Coach has provided more than 120 regular community club sessions within the royal borough and engaged 800 disabled people through community outreach.





Some of the youngsters from Hallfield Primary who performed

# Musical youngsters wow guests at charity fundraiser

SIXTEEN primary-school pupils wowed guests at a charity fundraiser at the Design Museum in Kensington with a performance of original music inspired by the museum itself.

The pupils, aged seven to 10, from Hallfield Primary School in Westminster, worked with Create's professional musician Merit Stephanos to write and rehearse the original piece, titled *Sonic Design*, in just two weeks.

The children performed in the main concourse of the Design Museum, within the architecture that inspired their piece, to an audience comprising their parents and more than 200 guests of Create, the award-winning arts charity that designed and delivered the project.

The performance was part of a fundraising event for Create, which raised more than 30,000 for its work with disadvantaged and vulnerable children and adults across the UK.

Sophie Santos, eight, sang a solo in the performance. She said afterwards: "I got to sing for my first audience in my life, and my mum was there."

"I was so shocked when I saw all the people. This is the biggest place and the biggest audience I've ever seen."

"The teacher said I was a very good singer so they gave me a special solo part. I was nervous at first but then I sang a bit more and felt more confident. At the end the audience kept on cheering for us and I felt really proud of myself."

Sophie's mum Claire Santos said for her daughter this was an especially meaningful experience.

"Sophie has two siblings, an older brother and an older sister, who both have autism," said mum.

"She doesn't get half the things they get, like special trips out. So she gets a bit left out sometimes

and having this opportunity to do something special for just her is something that she deserves. Her confidence has grown with it untold."

"I didn't even know she was doing a solo until the day. Although she's quite loud sometimes, inside she's quite shy so I didn't think she'd have the courage to do it. She surprised me."

"She absolutely loves music so to have the opportunity to sing in front of so many people is amazing. I'm so proud of her."

Nicky Goulder, co-founder and chief executive of Create, said: "We're absolutely delighted to have been able to give the pupils of Hallfield Primary School this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"Working with our professional musician Merit, they have worked so hard to create a song together that did justice to the museum that inspired it and the audience who came to hear them."

"Their dedication and professionalism really showed in the amazing final performance. I will never forget the huge smiles on the pupils' parents' faces, and the ovation the guests gave at the end. Most importantly, nor will they."

The event's headline sponsor was online design marketplace The Kairos Collective.

Tanya Southworth, its founder, said: "My vision for The Kairos Collective was to inspire a community of young collectors, curators and enthusiasts by bringing together the very best of London's interior boutiques, all on to one easy-to-use website."

"We share the vision of Create to integrate individuals from different parts of the society into the world of creative arts."

"As the headline sponsor of the special private view, we are delighted to help raise awareness of the meaningful work carried out by Create."

## Community event looks at way science changes sport's future

THE way science is changing the future of sport was in the spotlight as Imperial College London joined forces with Queens Park Rangers for the football club's community day.

The White City university is one of the partners of the football club in an annual event staged before the home game against Rotherham United.

The Science & Sport Family Day looked at issues such as how fast a football travels, what so-called sports drinks contain, and what the racing bikes and sports wheelchairs of the future might look like.



The free festival of sport, music, food and drink was created to give the community the chance to see how the future of sport is being changed by science.

There was also a chance to train with QPR coaches and footballers, and work with scientists from Imperial to explore new sporting discoveries.

Other activities included testing boxing skills with new smart electronic gloves, examining lung power with the latest medical instruments, racing drones around an obstacle course and trying out water-purifying bicycles.

Professor Maggie Dallman, of Imperial, said of the university's link with the community day: "Science affects our day-to-day lives, and this event is a chance to work together and discover more about how it shapes the future of the sports we enjoy."

Imperial is developing a major new campus in White City, and sees part of its role as working with the community and businesses.

In January, it announced it is developing The Invention Rooms, a community engagement space in Wood Lane, opening later this year.

## Older generation go back to school

MORE than 100 grans, nans and pops went back to school at St Peter's Primary in Hammersmith to mark Grandparents' Day.

The afternoon event at the Church of England school in St Peter's Road saw dozens of older relatives being celebrated and thanked for their key role in children's upbringing.

Head teacher Karen Frazer said: "This was a very special event in the school calendar and one which is enjoyed by the entire school community."

"Grandparents play such a key role in the life of our children, and our Grandparents' Day is a way of us saying 'Thank you' for all that our grandparents do for us."

The entire school joined together for an assembly, where the children sang and shared poems, stories and paintings, all based around the theme of cherishing grandparents.

Afterwards, the special visitors were given a guided tour of the school by the children, before returning to the hall for a traditional, homemade, cream tea.

Bella Croce, five, second left, and her twin sister Carla Croce with their grandparents, from left, Ada Croce, Douglas Evans and Jean Evans



## Labour councillors seeking urgent action over coach parking

CHURCHILL ward Labour councillors Jason Williams and Shamim Talukder have been working with council officers to ask for urgent action on coach parking on Ebury Bridge Road and Pimlico Road.

Residents have been contacting councillors with examples of coaches parked on Pimlico Road as well as by the Chelsea Barracks site on Ebury Bridge Road.

Cllr Williams said: "It's clear the removal of the coach parking facility in Nine Elms due to the redevelopment work there has had an effect on moving the issue to our streets while they wait for a slot at the Victoria Coach Station."

Cllr Talukder said: "Our local streets are not designed to be used as a coach parking lot and urgent action needs to be taken to resolve this issue."

Council officers, following lobbying by councillors, are now commissioning a feasibility study to look at how to reduce the extent of Victoria Coach Station coaches being driven around local roads, parking and engine idling.

Cllr Williams and Cllr Talukder have asked residents to continue to keep them informed of examples of coaches parked by emailing them at [jwilliams@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:jwilliams@westminster.gov.uk) or [stalukder@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:stalukder@westminster.gov.uk).



# New relaxation technique for expectant mothers

EXPECTANT mothers in Shepherd's Bush are being offered a new relaxation technique, pregnancy yoga.

The new class is on offer at the Flying Yogi studio in Goldhawk Road, along with yoga for babies. Trainer Kasia Poremma is out to show that you can never be too young for the stress-busting benefits of yoga.

"We want to provide options for people. Lots of people like traditional styles, something gentle and relaxing, while others want something more challenging," said Kasia.

"Our approach is to get to know people and what poses will be right for them, so the sequence may be slightly different each time.

"My goal is to reduce stress in others in the same way that yoga has helped me. It's kind of saved my life.

"Once you are in a cycle of stress it can be hard to step back. Yoga helps to redress the balance, and once you have that power over your mind, you realise you also have more control over your time."

■ CENTRAL Avenue, a new link to the Thames Path, designed by Barratt London for the Fulham community, is now fully open. The recently completed connection provides local residents and visitors with a tree-lined walk on to a stretch of Thames riverbank previously inaccessible to the public.

The granite and Yorkstone paved pedestrian walkway has been planted with trees along the river walk, which runs near Fulham Riverside, a development of 401 private homes which start at £2,677,500 for a five-bedroom triplex and £3,500,000 for a five-bedroom, five-storey townhouse.

In addition to one of the last undeveloped waterfront locations being opened up to the public, Fulham Wharf jetty has been retained, with plans in place for it to become a landscaped ecological reserve with an environmental education centre.



Trainer Kasia Poremma

After a stressful career in architecture left her with a back injury, Kasia knew she needed to make changes in her life.

One yoga class later and a dream was born – to open a yoga studio of her own that would help other busy Londoners lead a more balanced life too.

"Life is so stressful and people are overwhelmed," explains 39-year-old Kasia, who has trained in different forms of yoga, including hot Bikram, power yoga and the more gentle hatha style in the US, India and the UK.

"Yoga can help to develop an ability to make your mind more peaceful – and as yoga is a physical practice, it can be more approachable than something like meditation.

"Focusing on the poses – or asanas – means

the mind learns to concentrate on one thing, rather than flitting from one thought to another.

"In London, we really need that control over our mind to make life less stressful, more peaceful and less overwhelming."

It may seem like a huge jump to go from working in architecture and interior design to becoming a yoga teacher – but Kasia reveals she never felt so relaxed as when she attended her first yoga class, in Notting Hill 12 years ago.

"I decided there and then to become a yoga teacher," she explains. Three years ago, Kasia began searching for suitable premises, and eventually found the ideal spot in Goldhawk Road.

Her studio offers 'warm' yoga classes – the practice room is fitted with 12 infrared panels in the ceiling, which radiate a gentle heat. Classes take place under the warming panels, which heat the room from 25C to 30C – a much lower temperature than the controversial hot Bikram yoga, which can be performed in rooms heated to 40C.

"I didn't want the room to be too hot," said Kasia, who is originally from Poland but moved to the UK 18 years ago.

"I wanted something gentle so the heat is nice and welcoming, not off-putting."

The Flying Yogi's six teachers offer classes to suit all abilities, from a basic yoga class, to more dynamic vinyasa flow sessions, and even a 45-minute lunchtime fix for those who fancy limbering up during their break.

Men, women, old, young, all are welcome at the studio, emphasises Kasia. "We want to create a real sense of community here," she said.

Mum and baby yoga is on Sundays and pregnancy yoga is on Saturdays. For more details, visit theflyingyogi.co.uk.

## Restaurant is ray of Mediterranean sunshine in city

LA PIZZICA is a ray of Mediterranean sunshine when it comes to amazing authentic cuisine and a vibrant atmosphere, writes Shujaal Azam.

The Italian restaurant and the nearby delicatessen in Fulham Road reflect the story of a food-loving family from Puglia, in the southern tip of Italy, and the journey it has made in establishing itself in the heart of London.

The restaurant prides itself on reflecting the culture of a region which is renowned for its use of food from both the farms and the sea – it uses simple but top-quality ingredients and the dishes reflect the joy in their preparation.

The restaurant, which is nearly five years old, came after one of the three brothers, Gianluca D'averso, opened the delicatessen four years before – both now are firm favourites in the locality.

Gianluca has been in catering for 20 years and is a self-taught cook having watched his mother preparing big Italian lunches in beautiful rural Italian surroundings. It was a cash gift from his uncle which allowed him to embark on his catering company.

The food is described as being honest – from Puglia with influences from the sea. The use of fresh prawns and scallops is a running theme, said Gianluca's brother Rocco.

He said: "We have a menu with 60 dishes and a large wine list. We use simple ingredients but the very best – just taste our tomatoes, pulses, garlic, turnip tops, fish and prawns. Our pizzas are made in an oven which was transported from Italy.

"Our food is what the farmers eat, and there's so many influences in our cuisine – however, as we say the main ingredient comes from the heart."

It was great to once again find an Italian restaurant with such great food and a relaxed atmosphere – it seemed that Italian restaurants had gone into exile considering they were the first, being overshadowed by food from other parts of the world.

However, La Pizzica certainly puts Italian food back on the map – I tried the dishes below and without exception each was of high quality and cooked and presented correctly.

Aperitif: pizzicotti (little bread 'pinches') with Prosecco.

Starter: tuna tartare, burrata. All with Vernaccia (white wine).

Pizzas: margherita, diavola and Tuscan sausage.

Main: paccheri, cecchiette with sassee (red wine).

Dessert: pasticciotto with aleatico.

The restaurant is also regarded as a bit of a community hub with aspiring artists and musicians exhibiting and performing.

Downstairs there is plenty of space for hosting wedding and birthday receptions.

The menu is available at lapizzicalondon.co.uk.



## Visit Parliament – from your armchair

LONDONERS can now tour the Houses of Parliament without leaving their armchair.

Parliament has launched a new 360° virtual tour of the historic interiors of the Palace of Westminster, via Google Maps.

The new tour enables people to take a closer look at some of the famous rooms in Parliament, including the medieval Westminster Hall and the Commons and Lords debating chambers.

Other highlights include St Stephen's Hall, where suffragettes chained themselves in protest in the early 20th century, and Central Lobby, where the public exercise their democratic rights by lobbying MPs.

The tour will become part of the Google Maps world alongside similar experiences for other well-known landmarks including Buckingham Palace and The White House. The tour has been developed for Parliament by Aardvark 360, specialists in creating interactive 360° imagery.

"The tour will also be available on the Parliament website, accessible either via a computer or a mobile. Accessing the tour in VR mode allows for a more immersive experience using a virtual-reality headset," said a spokesman.

"Visitors to London have been able to book a guided tour of Parliament for a number of years. However the virtual tour will open the Palace up to visitors who haven't yet had the opportunity, allowing them to learn more about its fascinating history and encouraging them to visit in real life."

John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons said: "Parliament belongs to the people, so it is only right that everybody should get the chance to experience it. The virtual tour means that people from all over Britain and, indeed, all over the world can visit Parliament and learn about our democratic institutions."

Lord Fowler, Speaker of the House of Lords, said: "The virtual tour offers users the unique ability to be instantly transported to locations of historical, national and political importance.

"Through this technology, Parliament is now open to anyone every day of the week and we welcome this opportunity for the public to feel more connected to the House of Lords and experience standing in the Chamber where so much important work takes place."

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BRO



# Young inventors win £20k investment

TWO City University students will receive a £20,000 investment from the Citi Foundation after winning this year's Mayor's Entrepreneur Competition by inventing better bottom wipes.

Sadiq Khan presented the winning students Alborz Bozorgi and Ellenor McIntosh – creators of the winning entry Twipes – with their prize at a ceremony at City Hall.

Entrants were asked to come up with creative solutions to the environmental and social challenges London faces – and more than 300 entries from 37 institutions were whittled down to the final shortlist, with nearly 599 students involved.

The 10 shortlisted entries – representing seven London universities – spent the day pitching their ideas to the expert judges. They then faced the pressure of answering questions about all aspects of their ideas from the panel, which included journalist and broadcaster Jon Snow, perfumer and entrepreneur Jo Malone, Citi's chairman of energy banking Niels Kirk, and founder of Bio-bean Arthur Kay.

Twipes are eco-friendly, antibacterial toilet wipes which are dispensed from a roll similar to toilet paper, are free from harsh chemicals and – crucially – disintegrate in water in just three hours.

Mr Khan said: "As London's population grows, the pressure on our infrastructure increases with it.

"Alborz and Ellenor are to be commended for tackling this challenge head on and they should be very proud of what they have achieved.

"I'm hugely impressed by the quality of entries. It's testament to the creativity and talent in London's world-leading universities that such a range of innovative solutions have been developed to make our city a better place for future generations."

Ellenor said: "Winning was absolutely fantastic. Having the mayor endorse our product and our idea gives us such validation."

Her co-winner Alborz said: "All the judges



Ellenor McIntosh and Alborz Bozorgi with Sadiq Khan

are heads of their industries and to have them believe in our product is amazing."

Mr Kirk said: "Citi are excited to be supporting the mayor's Low Carbon Entrepreneur award.

"The finalists have developed environmentally and socially minded business propositions and should all be incredibly proud to have reached the final of this competition.

"We believe in the importance of supporting today's urban youth with the Mayor's Fund for London to help catalyse jobs and develop entrepreneurial and innovative mindsets, so that they are empowered and career-ready.

"As a global business we see first hand the

impact unemployment has on young people the world over, and the influence this can have on their self-esteem and future prospects.

"This year the Citi Foundation has expanded their commitment to support young people with \$100 million to reach 500,000 young people with training and jobs worldwide over the next three years."

Other shortlisted entries included a device for engines and gas boilers that removes nitrogen from the air entering the equipment, a robotic arm to enable stroke patients to complete more rehab at home, and a biodegradable substitute for leather made from carbon-neutral mushrooms.

## Authority leads new drive on tooth decay

WESTMINSTER City Council is leading a new drive on tooth decay after learning that the teeth of children in the borough are in a shocking state and youngsters need to pull their brush out.

The council has launched a new initiative to improve children's dental health with a conference featuring representatives from local schools, dental services and relevant community groups.

"The initiative aims to improve children's dental health in Westminster, and tackle a situation that sees the area have the fourth-highest level of child tooth decay for five-year-olds in London," said a council spokesman. "The aim of bringing together the key groups with influence over children's oral health builds upon existing practical schemes including promoting fluoride varnishing and providing a free toothbrush and toothpaste to all primary-school reception pupils."

The conference heard from Professor Nigel Hunt, dean of the Royal College of Surgeons, who underlined the scale of the challenge nationally and in Westminster. He revealed that in Westminster 59 per cent of children did not see an NHS dentist in 2016 and emphasised that tooth decay was the top cause of admissions to hospital among youngsters aged five to nine in 2015-16. He concluded that change was possible as tooth decay is 90 per cent preventable.

There was also local inspiration from Colville Primary School, a 'healthy school' gold award winner. Colville described using initiatives like permitting only water and milk to be drunk at school and ensuring that parents include details of their children's dentist on their admission forms.

Their efforts have dramatically cut the number of school days lost to poor dental health.

The meeting marked the start of a campaign that will see the development of an educational video aimed at local families. The coalition of local stakeholders also committed to further work around cutting sugar consumption in children, promoting effective brushing and encouraging regular visits to the dentist.

Cllr Heather Acton, cabinet member for adult social services and public health, said: "We know the misery that poor dental health causes and we know it increases hospitalisation of children.

"A few easy measures, including visiting a dentist regularly, brushing twice a day and cutting down on sugary drinks, can help children keep their teeth healthy. I'm committed to bringing together schools, businesses and health professionals to ensure every child and parent in Westminster knows and applies these simple steps."

## Councillors tackle MoD on low-flying helicopters

WESTMINSTER councillors are tackling the Ministry of Defence over mystery military helicopter flights that officials say don't exist.

For years Pimlico residents have been complaining about noise caused by low-flying choppers believed to be RAF and Army aircraft. But the Ministry of Defence says it's not the military that are making the din.

Now Churchill ward Labour councillor Jason Williams, pictured, has written to the Ministry of Defence to raise residents' concerns on low-flying helicopter noise in Churchill Gardens Estate.

"Noise from military helicopters has been a nuisance to residents of Churchill Gardens for a number of years. We have received complaints from residents and I have seen the helicopters flying at low levels across the estate on a number of occasions," said Cllr Williams.

But when he contacted the MoD in December, he was told that there no military aircraft operating the area.

Now, after appealing for residents to contact him with examples of flights, he has again written to the MoD asking if the flights are operational and what can be done to mitigate the noise of flights.

"The MoD have a duty to reduce the noise impact of any flights, particularly at night, on residents," said Cllr Williams.

"If there is a genuine operational need for these continual flights across Central London then they need to be working with us and local residents to reduce low flying and the resulting noise from the helicopters."

Cllr Williams has asked residents to let him know any incidents they have of these flights including times. He can be contacted at jwilliams@westminster.gov.uk.



# Trio are jailed over drugs supply at 'chemsex' parties

TWO men and a woman who were part of a criminal network responsible for the supply of class-A drugs at 'chemsex' parties in the West End have been jailed for a total of 11 years.

James Shugg, 53, of Drury Lane, Camden, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for conspiracy to supply class-A drugs and nine months' imprisonment for conspiracy to supply class-B drugs, each sentence to run concurrently.

Sara Bleta, 20, of Union Court, Richmond, was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for conspiracy to supply class-A drugs and nine months behind bars for conspiracy to supply class-B drugs, each sentence to run concurrently.

Alejandro Montes-Bailon, 26, of Newton Street, Camden, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for conspiracy to supply class-A drugs and six months' for conspiracy to supply class-B drugs, each to run concurrently.

They were jailed at Southwark Crown Court after pleading guilty, at an earlier hearing, to the offences.

Officers from Westminster Crime Squad began investigating their activities following incidents



Sara Bleta

in Soho and areas of the West End where it was suspected that illnesses and injuries were linked to crystal meth, mephedrone, GHB, LSD and cocaine.

Westminster Crime Squad executed two search warrants at addresses in Newton Street and Drury Lane.

Inside both addresses a quantity of class-A drugs (crystal meth, mephedrone and cocaine) was recovered by officers. Shugg and Montes-Bailon along with another man – Lee Cash – were arrested at the scene. There was also evidence that both addresses were

being used for 'chemsex' parties. Following this, further searches were carried out at the Drury Lane address where Bleta and another man – Thomas Larkin – were arrested in possession of larger quantities of the class-A drugs.

Inquiries on that occasion led officers to a further address in Beaufort Gardens, Chelsea, linked to Bleta. There they found two other men – Sadeddin Karadag and a 27-year-old man – in possession of smaller quantities of crystal meth and GHB. Both men were arrested.

All those arrested were initially bailed to allow for forensic analysis of the drugs recovered, but were later charged, with the exception of the 27-year-old, who received a caution.

DS Vince Abraham, of Westminster Crime Squad, said: "Our team has broken up a supply network where drugs were being made available to vulnerable users.

"During the investigation it was shown that the effects of the mixtures of these drugs used at 'chemsex' parties can prove fatal. The reckless supply of these drugs had to be stemmed.

"The sentences handed down to those involved show that the deal-

ers of these dangerous substances will be brought to justice and made to pay for their criminal actions.

"Shugg, Bleta and Montes-Bailon formed a supply network to distribute wholesale quantities of drugs to a large client base they built up through social media and word-of-mouth referrals.

"As a result of these arrests and charges, significant quantities of class-A and class-B drugs have been seized and this criminal network has been broken up."

The other men arrested were dealt with previously as follows:

Lee Cash, 53, of Newton Court, WC2, was sentenced at Westminster Magistrates' Court after pleading guilty to possession of class-A drugs, receiving a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a victim surcharge.

Thomas Larkin, 31, of Shelton Avenue, Feltham, was sentenced at Southwark Crown Court to 300 hours' community service after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

At Westminster Magistrates' Court, Sadeddin Karadag, 39, of Beaufort Gardens, SW3, was ordered to pay a £100 fine after pleading guilty to possessing class-A, class-B and class-C drugs.



# Now it's time to get the better of life!

## A Doctor Writes

As London plunges into the biggest mental-health crisis that the city has ever known, top Kensington psychologist **Dr Shamender Talwar** – who practises across West London – has launched in this newspaper a new easy-access direct consultancy aimed at helping the tens of thousands suffering from the illness. Here he discusses the importance of a smile – and how parents can help their teens make better decisions

Dear Dr Talwar

I AM at my wits' end and frankly these days I am frequently considering ending it all.

I suffered from depression some years ago but managed to come through it. Now the old feelings are coming back; uselessness, what's the point and despair at no longer fitting in with this modern world.

I don't understand so much of it. I don't understand computer technology, I don't understand the worship of it and I feel that I am being left behind by life.

I'm in my 60s, I've worked hard all my life but I have nothing at all to show for it – nothing.

I just about manage to get by. Everybody seems to pretty much ignore me because I'm not part of the "in gang" and I very much feel that it would be better for everyone if I just didn't exist anymore. What do you suggest?

**Brian B  
Maida Vale**

Dear Brian

DON'T let life get the better of you, you get the better of LIFE!

You may feel this way because of the way you have been treated in the past, a pattern has been set in your mind which you now have to break.

Do things to help yourself. Practise talking positively about yourself – out loud so you plant the seed of positivity.

Now you can work on watering and nurturing that seed to grow into a seedling.

Do things to help yourself, acknowledge your accomplishments – no matter how small – remember those things you were passionate about doing.

Write down 10 things in your life you are grateful for. Say them every day.

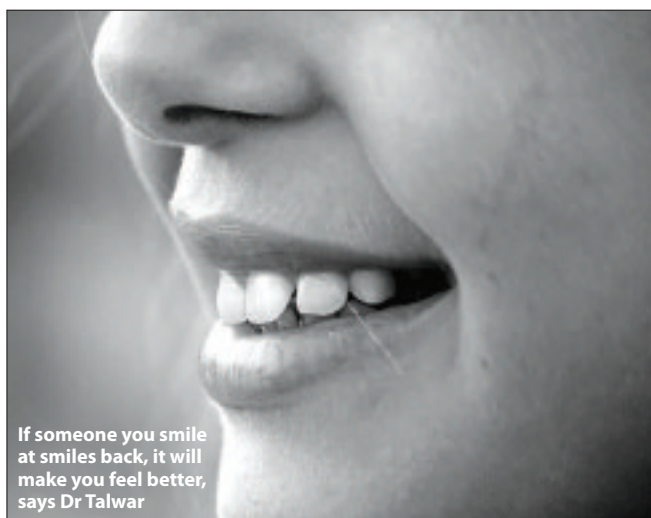
Do something for others less able than yourself; a family member, a friend, a neighbour. You will feel good about it.

Try to include a kind act every day, even if it is only giving a smile to someone when you are feeling good again. It will make you feel better, especially if they smile in return. If they don't smile they might next time.

It is the little things in life that are so worthwhile, so valuable.

Give back to your community in some way and by that I don't mean the "in gang" for they haven't got it right either, so start in some other area of the community.

There are always old people's homes where you can volunteer to help with games or outings or walks within their grounds. This is a fast way to wake up to all we can be



If someone you smile at smiles back, it will make you feel better, says Dr Talwar

grateful for, and you'll feel good about it.

Then write down things you're grateful for – try to do that every day to remind you of the positive parts in your life.

Try to recondition yourself. You can break this cycle. Stop measuring your value on someone else's inability or ability to understand technology.

Why be someone else when you can be you? You're one of a kind, irreplaceable, and impossible to replicate.

Do you know what that means? You're priceless! No amount of gold or money can ever match you because no-one in the planet's history or future will be just like you.

So stop hating your beautiful, amazing perfections and imperfections because without those quirks you wouldn't be you.

Be confident and love who you are. Smile. It will draw people in.

Try going to a hospice of sick children and see what the children are going through. Some of them won't see double figures.

However, you have gone beyond your half-century and you must have seen some happiness in your years. Cherish those moments, Brian, and remember there many out there with bigger issues and bigger situations and heavier problems.

Let's start to value what we have and build on it. Repeat aloud: Life will not get the better of me, I will get the better of LIFE!

**Dr Talwar**

Dear Dr Talwar

I WAS passed over a copy of the *Westminster & City News* by a friend of mine a week back. What a relief to hear somebody human and approachable like your good self.

We have a problem with our teenage son who is 15.

It is difficult to communicate with him. He thinks we are his enemy, does not want to engage with us at all, and is always in his room when at home.

I don't think he is in the right company of friends too. We believe he will be making too many wrong decisions.

We love him very much, he has always been our pride and joy. What can we do? How can you advise us? Do you do home visits?

**Nicolas and Sarah  
Marylebone**

Dear Nicolas and Sarah

A LARGE part of living a healthy and fulfilling life is learning how to make good decisions.

Teens are at the brink of that time in their life when they should be learning how to make right decisions for themselves.

Parents made decisions for their children when they were young – from the friends that they hang out with to the way that they dress.

Teens don't magically acquire the ability to make sound decisions; they learn it.

Much like learning how to walk for the first time, mistakes are part of the process.

There will be mis-steps, bumps, and falls but the challenge for parents is to decide which issues they can get involved in and which ones

When parents do not agree with their teen's choices, they cannot just step in and tell them to change their choices, says Dr Talwar



they'll let their teens handle. Well-meaning parents often overstep their boundaries and try to make the decisions for their teens.

When parents are worried that their teens are on the wrong path, they must ask themselves whether their teens are in immediate harm or not.

Do their choices put them – and other people – in harm's way? Is intervention needed for their own safety?

When parents do not agree with their teen's choices, they cannot just step in and tell them to change their choices.

The only way for teens to sincerely make a change in their life is when they are convinced that it's what they should do.

How then can parents help their teens make better decisions? Here are some practical tips:

Always talk to your teen. Have frequent conversations with your teen – not to lecture them but to just talk to them, know what's going on with their life, let them know what's going on with yours. Teens can learn a lot by the implicit lessons you can impart in casual conversations.

Be a good example. Despite what you may feel, you still exert a lot of influence on your teen's life. They may not say much but they drink in everything that they see and take most of it to heart. The first lessons that teens learn about decision-making come from the most influential adults in their life – their parents.

Provide your teen with other options. Teens may sometimes have trouble seeing the big picture. There's nothing wrong with widening their options and explaining to them that there are other ways to go about things. It's even better if you help them arrive at other options by asking them questions and giving examples.

Pick your battles. Teens are individuals. They will express themselves differently from their parents, they will make different choices in life. There are things that parents may not like about their

teens but are not really important, in the grand scheme of things. For example, the clothes that they pick, the music they listen to, or the colour of their hair. There are things that parents shouldn't make a big deal about and let their teens

just work through. Teens are just trying to discover what they like and don't like. Parents should learn to pick their battles so that they don't end up arguing with their teens over every little thing.

Let them make decisions. As long as teens know their limits, they can work within these limits and have some leeway to explore their freedom. Let your teen make a decision and see for themselves if this works for them or not. If your teen makes a bad decision, allow them to experience the consequences too.

Evaluate the decision with your teen. When teens make a decision that didn't work out too well, it's better if parents try to talk to them and help them work through the issue. For example, if your teen gets an F in a subject because he/she decided to go to a party over the weekend instead of study for an exam, help your teen understand how he/she could have handled the situation better. He/she could have just skipped the party, or he/she could have chosen to come home earlier, or he/she could have prepared sufficiently for the exam before the weekend.

Don't add insult to injury. When teens make bad choices, don't add insult to injury by saying "I told you so". Instead of judging your teen, offer support and sympathy.

Praise good decisions. On the other hand, if your teen made a good decision, praise him/her for it. Tell your teen what made that decision a good one so that he/she will learn lessons from a positive experience as well as the negative ones.

We are living in the Google world. Twenty years ago, if my parents told me anything it was gospel. However, now the world has evolved and whenever I tell my children anything they will say "Hold on Dad, let me Google it".

Remember that you won't always be there to make decisions for your teen. He/she must be able to make sound decisions, and the only way that your teen could do that is if they learn decision-making and problem-solving skills early in their life.

I hope that helps you both to support your pride and joy and not to forget to become psychologists to your son.

**Dr Talwar**

**■ Week by week, Dr Talwar is addressing common mental-health problems and ways to overcome them. If you or someone you care for has mental-health issues, send your questions to [drtalwar@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:drtalwar@londonweeklynews.co.uk).**

## Doctor's column a joy to read

**THANK you for the uplifting article *The psychologist is you* (LWN, March 14).**

**A friend posted it to me and it was a true joy to read.**

**I am 82 years old and since I was in my 20s I have practised what Dr Talwar explained in his article – listening, offering loving kindness, moral support, touch, like holding hands or hugs... I was doing it naturally. It was my nature.**

**For many years now I have been conscious of the very calming and healing effects this has on people. I seem to attract those who**

**suffer traumas or depression or just sadness.**

**Dr Talwar is so right how little is sometimes needed to relieve another – a word, a smile, a loving look in their eyes.**

**It always works and I am so glad that Dr Talwar wrote about it. It is an important message in our times when so many seem to have forgotten about human contact and are oblivious of others' feelings, lost in their mobile phones or some other piece of technology.**

**Thank you Dr Talwar.**

**Anne B**







## Uni girl a student's life in the capital

For many parents, having their child leave home to go to university can be a worrying time. Will they be safe? Are they eating properly or drinking too much? Are they getting any work done?

Now, with a new occasional column, we bring parents the inside story on life at university from Issy MacLennan, a first-year student from Wiltshire who is studying journalism at the University of the Arts in Holborn, reporting on what it's like being a Uni Girl in the capital



Issy discusses how she experienced "one of every girl's fears of going on a night out" – having her drink spiked

**A** FEW weeks ago some friends and I decided to go on a night out – and because we hadn't properly been out in months, we planned to go to Soho and move on from there.

That day I had been working a shift in Wagamama where they feed a you an item off the menu along with a side. I then ate three pieces of bread when I came back from work to ensure I lined my stomach so I wouldn't become paralytic.

About 30 minutes after this I predrank on three glasses of vodka orange juice, then arrived at the club mildly tipsy.

I bought one drink out. I remember rolling a cigarette, and I don't remember leaving the club.

I don't remember leaving the club because someone had put something in my drink.

I don't remember not being able to walk to the Tube station without having to have my friends give me support because someone decided it was a good idea to put a drug in my body I was not aware of.

I don't remember throwing up on the Tube because for some reason someone thought the only way to get 'lucky' that night was by forcing someone to be in a state in which they can barely lift their head, let alone be in a state to say no. To anything.

What was I wearing that night? I remember this part well. I had finished work at around 8.30pm, arrived back to my halls to get changed and ready to meet my friends for 9.30pm so I had to rush to get ready so I decided to wear the closest and cleanest things I could, a black turtle-neck top and a black skirt that went about four inches above the knee, and some tights.

Would I describe what I wore as revealing in anyway way? Not really.

How about provocative? No because I didn't feel like flashing much, seeing as I couldn't shower before going out after an eight-hour shift and I felt quite gross.

Would I say I was asking for anything? Absolutely not.

So how can I be sure I was spiked, and not just 'white girl wasted'? Well, you see, I couldn't physically stand on my own. And whilst I understand that many people say they 'think' they've been spiked, why would you even question it?

Why would you think to question someone on the fact that they were in no way in control of anything they were doing and in that state?

I woke up to the sound of my alarm because I had work, and then my phone started ringing. It was my dad asking me about finding another job and I remember distinctly looking around my room unsure as to how the hell I got there and how I got into bed.

As he asked me 'Did you have a rough night last night?' – I just said 'No, just should've gone to bed earlier'.

I then hung up and asked my best friend, who was sleeping on a blow-up mattress on my floor, what happened and she said 'Issy, you were spiked. Can't you remember anything?' – and the only thing I could remember after being in the club was sitting on my bed crying with my friends and flatmates around me saying 'I'm so sorry'.

And at this point I actually need to ask what on Earth would possess someone to do that to another person?

I was terrified; I know that because I was sobbing. My friend who came out with me that night later told me that when I was on the Tube I began shaking and crying saying I was scared.

Because when you lose

all control of your body that's what tends to happen.

And when sober I was still apologising for the fact I was spiked, and I honestly don't know why.

Because I don't understand why I feel the need to apologise for being put in that state, when it's one of any girl's fears of going on a night out.

Because funnily enough, almost everyone is aware of the intentions that come with putting something in someone's drink – you're not just doing it to add to the extra fun of the night.

And the fact is with spiking is that it's hard for anyone to have a case on it, because Brock Turner raped an unconscious girl behind a bin and got six months in prison and came out after three for good behaviour.

*Hey, you were out getting drunk, you were asking for trouble.*

I've had comments like 'Well look at it this way – someone thought you were hot enough to spike'.

Yeah, great, someone thought I was so fit they should sexually assault me. I feel SO special.

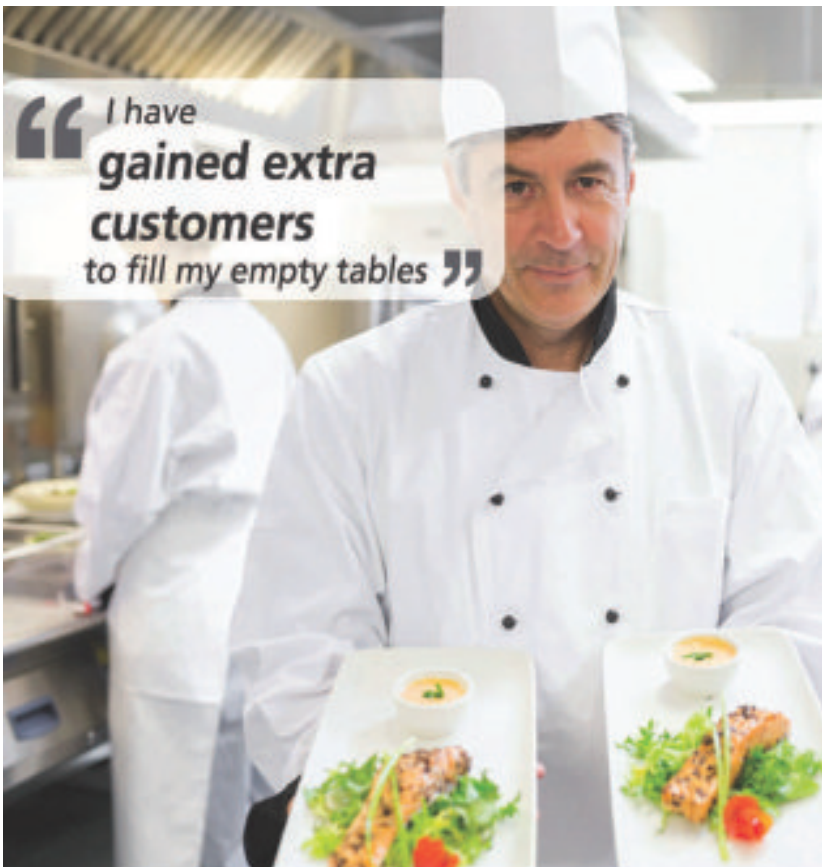
I don't care that it's a common thing that people need to be aware of, I care that someone is that sick they choose to wish that upon someone else.

I care that it's so common that I didn't feel the need to go to A&E the next day.

I care that it happens to people almost every night in a different club and that barely anything is being done to prevent it.

I care about the fact that I was extremely lucky my friends stayed with me all night so that nothing happened to me. I care that there are people out there who aren't as lucky as I was.

This isn't me writing this for attention, this is me saying that it's an awful thing that happens that makes you feel incredibly unsafe, and that no-one will ever ask for it. No-one is asking for it.



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# Cream, a cherry and parasites – *The End* is nigh at Fourth Plinth

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE latest bizarre commission for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square has really reached *The End*.

That's the title of the new winning entry, a study of whipped cream topped with parasites, the unveiling of which hundreds of thousands of Londoners are eagerly anticipating in 2020.

The work by acclaimed artist and award-winning poet Heather Phillipson is described by Sadiq Khan's spokesman as "exploring the extremes of shared experience".

The mayor of London has announced Ms Phillipson and Michael Rakowitz as the artists who have won the next commissions for the Fourth Plinth.

Mr Rakowitz's sculpture will be unveiled in 2018 and Ms Phillipson's two years later. They follow on from the current sculpture *Really Good* by David Shrigley, a 7m high thumbs-up, which will stay on the plinth until March 2018.

The winners were chosen from a shortlist which included Huma Bhabha, Damian Ortega and Raqs Media Collective to win the commissions.

*The Invisible Enemy Should Not Exist* is a project begun by Michael Rakowitz in 2006 that attempts to recreate more than 7,000 archaeological artefacts looted from the Iraq Museum during the war or destroyed in its aftermath.

"For the Fourth Plinth Rakowitz will recreate the Lamassu, a winged bull and protective deity that stood at the entrance to Nergal Gate of Nineveh from c 700 BC," said the spokesman.



The End by Heather Phillipson

"In 2015 it was destroyed by IS terrorists along with other artefacts in Mosul Museum. The Lamassu will be made of empty Iraqi date syrup cans, representative of a once-renowned industry decimated by the Iraq Wars.

*The End* by Heather Phillipson is a whirl of cream topped with a cherry and parasites. The



The Lamassu

work explores the extremes of shared experience, from commemorations and celebrations to mass protests, all while being observed by a drone's camera.

*The End* represents exuberance and unease. Topped with a giant, unstable load, the plinth becomes a monument to hubris and impending collapse."

The two sculptures will be the 12th and 13th works to appear on the Fourth Plinth since the commissioning programme began in 1998.

The Fourth Plinth is the smallest but most

prominent sculpture park in the world. Funded by the mayor of London with support from Arts Council England, the programme invites world-class artists to make astonishing new works for Trafalgar Square.

"An established icon for London, it brings out the art critic in everyone," said the spokesman, presciently.

Justine Simons, deputy mayor for culture and creative industries, said: "I am delighted to announce Michael Rakowitz and Heather Phillipson as the winning artists of the next two Fourth Plinth commissions.

"More than 9,000 people have had their say on what was an incredible shortlist, and it's clear that these two hugely contrasting artworks stand out for their visual impact as well as their unique ability to make the viewer stop and think.

"The Fourth Plinth is the world's most-loved and talked-about public art platform – it is pioneering, inventive and surprising, and, above all, shows that London is open to creativity and ideas from around the world."

Ekow Eshun, chairman of the Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group, said: "This year we received five extremely strong proposals for the next Fourth Plinth commissions, and choosing the winning commissions was particularly challenging.

"Michael Rakowitz's and Heather Phillipson's works are wondrous, striking and deeply engaging. The new commissions will proudly continue the legacy of the Fourth Plinth in putting world-class contemporary sculpture at the heart of London."

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**Tiny, blind Bea is saved from death**

BATTERSEA Dogs & Cats Home has saved a five-week-old puppy from being put down because she is blind.

The tiny unwanted Yorkie, pictured, was brought to the world-renowned animal charity by a worried nurse after the puppy's breeder took her to a vet to be euthanised, declaring that she would not sell in her condition.

Bea was so young she needed to be hand-reared and was taken on foster by a nurse to ensure she received all the treatment she needed around the clock.

The vet refused to write her off and brought her to Battersea where she was whisked into the home's Veterinary Hospital for treatment. Battersea's head vet Shaun Opperman assessed the puppy and determined that while she has extremely limited vision that may continue to deteriorate, she is more than able to live a full and happy life.

Shaun said: "Bea copes really well with her disability – she quickly maps out the room she's in and is soon hopping around happily. Like any puppy, she loves to play and you often see her running around the room carrying a tennis ball that's even bigger than she is. We don't expect her to be here very long once she's ready to go to a new home."

Because she was taken from her littermates

at such a young age, staff have been making sure Bea gets plenty of socialisation with other dogs and she has taken a particular liking to a member of staff's dog, Barney, a golden Labrador, a former Battersea resident rescued from a puppy farm himself. The pair play happily together for hours.

The charity has campaigned for several years for tighter laws and regulations around the breeding and selling of puppies. Battersea firmly believes dogs should be companions, not commodities, and works hard to rehome every animal that comes into its care.

Shaun said: "Bea's story goes to show how unscrupulous the world of dog breeding and puppy sales can be. Dogs are not commodities – just because they may not sell for much money doesn't mean they should just be written off.

"Bea can live a perfectly normal life and will make someone a loving pet but we know there are many more puppies out there who won't be as lucky as her, and will sadly be dumped or destroyed purely because their breeder puts profit before animal welfare. If a breeder does not want to care for a dog like Bea, then we would encourage them to please bring them to a rescue centre rather than putting them to sleep. They deserve a chance."

For more information, go to [battersea.org.uk](http://battersea.org.uk).





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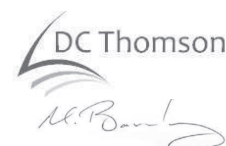
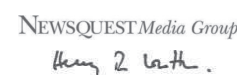
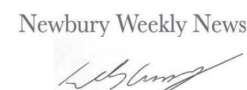
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We stand in agreement that local news brands online are now more than ever a great place for you to communicate and market your business and brands to UK consumers.

What's more your advertising helps us to **continue to fund** much needed, **high quality local journalism**. We hope you will stand together with us to support our local news brands, many of which have been publishing for over 150 years, so their unique content can continue to be loved and trusted for many generations to come.





# Capital nights

**T**ELEVISION shows like *The Great Bake Off* and *The X-Factor* fuelled Brexit, according to new research. People glued to such programmes are more likely to vote for populist politicians like Nigel Farage and Donald Trump, say academics.

A 30-year study of Silvio Berlusconi's commercial television network Mediaset found more viewers voted for his right-wing Forza Italia party when it featured just light entertainment.

The effect lasted for almost two decades and five elections. The phenomenon is especially pronounced among older and young people, although in vastly different ways.

People exposed to entertainment television as children voted almost eight percentage points more for Berlusconi compared to those who were exposed later.

They also did worse in intelligence tests as adults – adding to evidence too much time spent in front of the box harms education.

The researchers found an even stronger effect among people who were 55 and older when entertainment television became the norm.

This group voted on average by 10 percentage points more for Forza Italia than their non-exposed peers.

Economist Dr Andrea Tesei, of Queen Mary University of London, explained: “Our results suggest individuals exposed to entertainment television as children are less cognitively sophisticated and less socio-politically engaged as adults, and ultimately more vulnerable to Berlusconi's populist rhetoric.”

“Older people, on the other hand, appear to have been hooked by the light entertainment Mediaset provided and were later exposed to biased news content on the same channels.”

Dr Tesei said voters in Britain may be “indirectly” affected in a similar way.

**Mark Waghorn**  
on research  
which suggests  
*The X-Factor*  
fuelled Brexit

He explained: “Popular British television is of a higher quality than Italian but those who watch these shows may be more susceptible to simple language and slogans, such as we have seen with Trump, and during the Brexit campaign. It is quite subtle, and would have happened over a long period of time.”

“But the dumbing down of television in general is a concern, particularly for children growing up. Our study showed children who watched entertainment television did worse in cognitive tests which has been shown in past research where they've been allowed beyond the recommended amounts of two hours a day.”

In the study his team compared the voting behaviour of people who lived in regions where Mediaset, which was introduced across Italy in stages, was broadcast compared to those where it was unavailable.

Overall, people who had access before 1985 – when the network only featured light entertainment – voted on average only one percentage point more for Berlusconi, compared to areas that had access later as it rolled out.

But this masked the much wider differences among older and younger voters. The study also found less-educated high-school dropouts who got entertainment television voted three percentage points more for Forza Italia than their non-exposed counterparts.

People exposed to entertainment television as children scored five per cent worse than peers in

cognitive tests as adults. They were also 13 per cent less likely to report an interest in politics, and 10 per cent less likely to be involved in a voluntary group.

Older people exposed to entertainment television during the 1980s were 16 per cent more likely to watch news, traditionally slanted in favour of Berlusconi and introduced on Mediaset in 1992.

The researchers also found exposure to entertainment television did not just increase support for Berlusconi but also for other parties with similar populist features.

Indeed, early access to Mediaset appears also to be associated with higher support for the anti-Euro Five-Star-Movement – led by ex-comedian Beppe Grillo – which first fielded candidates in 2013.

These results suggest that Mediaset influenced political attitudes and voting behaviour beyond its effect on Berlusconi's party. In particular, the results suggest a relationship between exposure to light-fare television and preferences for populist parties and leaders.

The researchers used a combination of research methods, including engineer-developed software to simulate television signal propagation, econometric analysis based on municipal-level election data, and georeferenced survey data.

The results, published in a School of Economics and Finance (Queen Mary University of London) working paper, were significant and stood up when controlled for geographical and socio-economic characteristics at the municipal level.

Dr Tesei said: “Our results suggest entertainment content can influence political attitudes, creating a fertile ground for the spread of populist messages. It is the first major study to investigate the political effect of exposure among voters to a diet of ‘light’ entertainment.”

“The results are timely as the US adjusts to the presidency of Donald Trump.”



**The Great British Bake Off**  
caused Brexit?

Picture: Peter Summers/SWNS





# Capital nights

**F**IVE decades after 10 minutes' work earned him a lifetime of fame and fortune, West Londoner Ray Dorset is to attempt setting a world record with the most guitarists ever coming together to play his Mungo Jerry hit *In The Summertime*.

The former West London schoolboy is aiming to amass 6,500 guitarists to perform his big-selling 1970 single on a beach in his now-home county of Dorset in June.

Ray, who wrote the iconic summer song during a tea break while working as a lab technician at the Times plant in Feltham, is appealing to all guitarists, pros and amateurs, to join him at the seaside in Lyme Regis on Saturday June 17 to grab the world record for the largest number of guitarists to all play one song together.

He is hoping to steal the record for Britain from Poland, where 6,336 guitarists gathered at a festival in Wroclaw to perform a Jimi Hendrix song in 2009.

The *Guitars On The Beach* event is now in its fifth year and it already holds the record for the UK's biggest guitar band, set in 2014 when Deep Purple frontman Ian Gillan led 3,000 guitarists playing his group's classic hit *Smoke On The Water*.

Now organisers want to more than double the size of the band, which performs on the sand in front of Lyme's historic Cobb harbour, the location for the Oscar-nominated Meryl Streep movie *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.

As there are only three chords to *In The Summertime* – E, A, B – Ray is hoping that thousands of amateur guitarists from all

over the UK will, as the song goes, "speed along the lane" down to Lyme to become official members of the world's biggest band at the free event.

The whole day is devoted to everything guitar, with live performances throughout the day and evening, including sets from Shoot the Moon and Broken Flowers. The record attempt will take place at 5pm.

As well as taking over the whole beach, the promenade will become a 'guitar show' area with leading instrument, amplifier and effects pedal brands in attendance, and offers a chance to play with some of the latest guitar gear. Absolute Music, a music superstore in Bournemouth, is the main sponsor of the event and will be running all technical aspects of the show, as well as offering deals on the day from the guitar-show partners.

Besides playing in the huge band with Ray, the guitarists will also be given the opportunity to join in on an entire set of easy-to-play golden oldie songs, including 2-4-6-8 *Motorway* by Tom Robinson, Pink Floyd's *Wish You Were Here*, *I Love To Boogie* and *Get It On* by T Rex, *Blockbuster* by The Sweet, The Beatles' *Let It Be*, George Harrison's *My Sweet Lord* and Buddy Holly's *Rave On*.

Besides guitarists, banjo, mandolin and ukulele players are all invited to join the charity event in aid of Music For All.

To join the big band, see [absolutemusic.co.uk/GOTB](http://absolutemusic.co.uk/GOTB) or [guitarsonthebeach.com](http://guitarsonthebeach.com).

**Geoff Baker  
previews  
Ray Dorset's  
attempt at a  
world record**



We're gonna need a bigger beach! Inset, Ray Dorset

## Grab big chance to break into TV

If you fancy breaking into television, here's your chance. The UK's most prestigious TV industry event, The Edinburgh International Television Festival, has announced that submissions for its popular Talent Schemes programmes are now open.

The charitable organisation, whose mission is to identify and nurture the next generation of talent from all backgrounds, runs The Network and Ones to Watch, the industry's most respected training programmes. Running concurrently every year, the schemes help talent from a diverse range of backgrounds across the UK kick-start their careers in the TV industry.

The Network was set up in 1991 to give talent with little or no experience their vital first step on the TV ladder. Designed for those who want to work behind the camera, places are highly-coveted with 60 hopefuls accepted on to the scheme every year. Successful applicants benefit from a four-day course that takes place alongside the world-famous TV Festival in August. This is followed by 12 months of mentoring and paid work placements with some of the TV industry's most prestigious companies.

Ones to Watch (OTW), founded in 1994, is aimed at those who already have three or more years' experience in TV and are looking to make the next big step in their career.

With only 30 places available on this course, only the most impressive entrants are selected. Candidates are drawn from all areas of the TV industry – from assistant producers to directors, writers to marketers, schedulers, business and legal.

Graduates of OTW will gain access to a series of exclusive workshops and masterclasses, led in previous years by prominent industry executives and creatives including Jay Hunt, Charlotte Moore, Vince Gilligan and Vinay Patel.

OTW participants will also be showcased to more than 2,000 delegates at the TV festival and will receive 12 months of training and development from the best in the business.

Places on both schemes are awarded after an online application process and those shortlisted

will be invited to take part in a series of assessment days across the UK. The Talent Schemes are free to enter and participate in and have a long history of finding and nurturing future talent and leaders.

They have kick-started the careers of those who have gone on to become heads of production companies, channel controllers, award-winning director and writers, including Fiona Campbell (controller, BBC News, Mobile and Online), Laura Mansfield (managing director, Outline Productions/PACT chairman), Cameron Roach (commissioning editor, Sky Drama) and Rajiv Nathwani (social-media manager, Netflix).

The Edinburgh TV Festival Talent Schemes are highly regarded by the TV industry's finest.

Jay Hunt, chief creative officer, Channel 4, said: "I still get emails from people three years later who participated on these schemes and say it has transformed their career. It's a fantastic experience and brilliant training ground, and it really can kick-start what you want to do for the rest of your life."

Ash Atalla, founder of Roughcut TV and producer of hit series including *The Office*, *Trolled* and *People Just Do Nothing*, said: "The Edinburgh TV Talent Schemes are an amazing opportunity and a privilege to be a part of. If you're on these schemes it means you're the best of the best."

Campbell Glennie, director, Talent Schemes, Edinburgh International TV Festival, said: "We have long been committed to finding and nurturing the best talent from across the country and a range of backgrounds. We firmly believe that the diversity of those who watch TV should be matched by those who make it, and that's what our schemes deliver across the board."

"It's always very exciting to help people launch their careers in television and our Talent Schemes really are a fantastic springboard. We can't wait to meet the talent this year."

Applications can be submitted via the website and are open until April 28 (11pm). All applicants must be over 18. Shortlisted applicants will be notified in May. To apply, go to [thetvfestival.com](http://thetvfestival.com).



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# Talk of the town

## REVIEW

### Shirley Valentine at Richmond Theatre

☆☆☆☆



I REMEMBER feeling triumphant as a 14-year-old when I managed to sneak into the local cinema to see the film version of *Shirley Valentine*, which was rated a 15. My excitement dwindled, however, after the first few minutes, when I realised the entire movie was about a middle-aged woman moaning about her mundane existence, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Now that I'm considerably more mature, the themes of the story are infinitely more relatable.

And the 30th-anniversary stage production, which is currently touring the country, acts as a reminder of how far women have come over the last three decades, with plenty of pastiche.

Written by Willy Russell, *Shirley Valentine* is a play which features just one performer and follows a bored, middle-aged housewife, who, at the ripe old age of 42, is wondering if life has anything else left to offer.

Russell's ability to extract every ounce of humour from the seemingly humdrum lives of ordinary people is remarkable and his observations are both heartwarming and hysterical.

First in her yellow pine kitchen, complete with beige appliances, earthenware crockery and mustard-coloured decor, and then on a holiday island, Shirley berates her

monotonous life and unexpectedly rediscovers herself after she decides to make a break from the relentless dreariness of it.

The show stars Jodie Prenger, who is perhaps best known for winning the role of Nancy in the West End production of *Oliver!* following one of the BBC's search-for-a-star shows. Her natural Northern charm and earthy demeanour fit perfectly with Russell's central character and her rhythmic delivery of the dialogue makes her Shirley extremely endearing.

Compared to Pauline Collins, who originally played the titular role both on stage and in the 1989 film version, Prenger makes a much more glamorous homemaker and the physical comedy she brings to the role is hilarious. Her engagement with the audience is second to none and at times you feel as if you're in her house and she's telling you her woes one to one over a cup of tea, such is her ability to connect.

Act one is a little too long and the mid-act clearing of egg and chips by stagehands feels unprofessional. But this is a minor grievance in an otherwise beautifully performed piece of theatre.

See atgtickets.com/shows/shirley-valentine/richmond-theatre for more details.

## David Tennant as Don Juan

Picture: Helen Maybanks



Nicky Sweetland  
reviews

### DON JUAN IN SOHO

at Wyndham's Theatre

☆☆☆☆☆

THESE has long been a fascination with the character of Don Juan. The caddish anti-hero has appeared in an almost infinite number of films and stage shows – and in Patrick Marber's new stage adaptation, David Tennant is delightfully despicable as the devilish scoundrel.

With a plot based on the 1665 Moliere play, Marber brings the story to modern-day Soho and we are introduced to the lovable Lothario Don Juan (known as DJ) as he returns to his womanising ways after a brief matrimonial hiatus.

Bored by the perpetual averageness of

modern-day living, he incessantly seeks the next thrill, through debauchery and drug taking, while lamenting society's need for a more mundane, meaningless and mediocre existence.

Tennant is admirably abhorrent as the charismatic Casanova, who lives just to be satisfied.

Feverishly funny, he oozes animal instinct – but many of his prolonged rants about the ordinariness of society ring true.

An outburst about the gentrification of Soho, in which mourns his past ability to get change from a tenner for getting "stoned, blown and a taxi home" has its base in reality as does his protracted harangue

about our greediness for gratification from social media.

But that's what makes this character so relatable – his connection, all be it extreme, to the dark thoughts many of us harbour.

Marber has cleverly made Don Juan's sexual addiction his life sentence; the role he must play to ensure the rest of us can feel as if we have a moral high ground.

Stylish, sleazy and splendidly sordid, this Don Juan isn't someone you'd want as a friend but you won't be able to resist his detestable demeanour.

*Don Juan In Soho* is running at the Wyndham's Theatre until June 10. Visit website [delfontmackintosh.co.uk](http://delfontmackintosh.co.uk) for more details.

AUDIENCES at Trafalgar Studios will be taken back to the 1970s this month when *46 Beacon*, a coming-of-age and coming-out play, will be performed for a limited season, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Written by Drama Desk and Richard Rodgers Award winner Bill Rosenfield, the memory play is set in 1970s Boston and will feature rising star Oliver Coopersmith alongside West End and Broadway favourite Jay Taylor.

Jay took time out of rehearsals to tell me about the premise behind *46 Beacon*, which enjoyed a short run at The Hope Theatre. He said: "It's set at a time of sexual liberation for men. It's about the meeting of two gay characters."

"It's a really important moment in the history of gay rights and of the progression of equal rights for the LGBTQ community. This play, without preaching or stuffing the politics down people's throats, really expresses what a precarious time that was to be gay and how far we've come since then."

## PREVIEW: 46 Beacon at Trafalgar Studio 2

Jay was last seen on the London stage in 2016, when he appeared opposite Gemma Arterton in *Nell Gwynn*, both at Shakespeare's Globe and when it transferred to the West End.

He has also tried his hand at being a playwright himself. His first play, *The Arcadian Pirates*, was staged at Theatre 503 last October.

The actor has had plenty of practice at growing his sideburns and coiffing his hair in the classic 70s style, as most recently he has filmed a new television series called *Prime Suspect 1973*, a six-part prequel to the famous cop show which originally starred Helen Mirren.

*46 Beacon* will be presented in the small performance space known as Trafalgar Studio 2, which enables the audience to get very close and gives the actors nowhere to hide – something Jay

is very mindful of. "The last few theatre jobs I've done have been in big theatres, either on Broadway, in the West End or at the Globe, playing to 500 to 1,000 people, so to be playing to an intimate 90-seater takes a very different energy."

"Also, this is a very intimate play; it does feature a bit of nudity, so it means that's a bit exposing."

Audiences at the intimate venue will be welcomed to *46 Beacon* to meet Alan and Robert, who spend a balmy July evening hoping for a connection, emotional or physical.

It is set within a theatrical hotel. Robert has invited Alan back to his room – and although they are at different stages of their lives, they each have something the other yearns for.

Jay said: "They are at a crossroads. It's about two people, both with their insecurities, problems

and neuroses that they are battling with. It's got a classic structure in that they both have something to educate the other with and so they also learn from one another. It's a sort of meeting of minds and an imparting of wisdom."

Jay is playing opposite Oliver Coopersmith, who most recently appeared in the acclaimed British science-fiction thriller *iboy* for Netflix.

In *46 Beacon* the pair are given the opportunity to exhibit some comedic interplay between the strong characters they are portraying, as well as depicting a very important time in LGBTQ history.

Jay said: "There are very few plays that are telling stories about this era. I think this is a new piece of writing about sexual identity and I think it will have some really significant implications for people. It's also really funny."

*46 Beacon* will run at Trafalgar Studio 2 from tomorrow (April 5) to April 29. For more details, visit [46beacon.com](http://46beacon.com).



# Talk of the town

**P**EOPLE often ask me why I have seen the musical *Wicked* so many times. One of the reasons is that the people they cast in the leading roles are among the best musical-theatre performers in the world. They often go on to achieve huge success and command a large and devoted fan base.

One such performer is Rachel Tucker, who – along with her husband Guy Retailack – runs the Bridge House Theatre in Penge.

Rachel has recently completed another critically acclaimed run as the green witch Elphaba in the West End production of *Wicked* after taking Broadway by storm in the role last year, and is giving her legions of fans the chance to get up close with a UK solo tour.

Her first engagements were at Live at Zedel in Piccadilly and I was excited to be able to attend one of the sold-out shows.

Right from the beginning, Rachel showed her mettle and blustered into the club in high spirits, regaling the gathered throng with an audacious rendition of Bette Midler's *Miss Otis Regrets*. With cheek and frivolity as she manoeuvred around the room, Rachel immediately captured the audience with her infectious personality.

And after a fun version of *The Candy Man* from the beloved children's film *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, she brought the mood down and enriched the experience with some well-told anecdotes and more poignant songs including *Through The Window* from the Broadway musical *Dear Evan Hansen*.

The versatile star even managed to overcome some technical difficulties at the start of the show and quipped by saying: "Who needs lights? Aren't I bright enough?"

I would have to agree with the singer's jest

as this is one star who exudes a jubilant light from every pore.

The ability to take an audience on an emotional roller coaster when you are not in character and performing on your own is a skill few perfect – but Rachel had the audience in the palm of her hand throughout and you could have heard a pin drop during her touching version of *When Somebody Loved Me* from *Toy Story 2*.

*Wicked* fans enjoyed a real treat in the second act, when

Rachel was joined on stage by her former co-stars Louise Dearman and Katie Rowley Jones for a stunning pair of songs from the Broadway musical *Waitress*, which had been beautifully arranged into a trio.

And Louise returned to the stage later in the show to perform a fabulous duet with Rachel, which featured *Kiss Today Goodbye* from *A Chorus Line* cleverly infused with Barbara Streisand's *The Way We Were*. The mix of the pair's vocal was absolutely stunning.

Other highlights included a dark version of *No Good Dead* from *Wicked* and a spirited rendition of Ed Sheeran's *Castle On A Hill*.

Rachel Tucker will take off on tour around the UK in May, before heading over to New York to play the coveted 54 Below.

I'm hoping she pops an extra date in and plays at her home venue, the Bridge House Theatre in Penge – but as yet, that's not on the cards.

Nicky Sweetland  
reviews  
**RACHEL TUCKER**  
at Brasserie Zedel  
★★★★★



## REVIEW: An American In Paris at Dominion Theatre

★★★★★

OCCASIONALLY a show comes along which is so beautiful that it's hard to find superlatives to do it justice. And the newly opened stage adaptation of *An American In Paris* is such a magical assault on the senses that it's almost too good for words, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Christopher Wheeldon is world renowned within the ballet fraternity and his reimagined version of the Oscar-winning film that starred Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron is filled with so much graceful and gorgeous dance that you'll be left thinking you've been immersed in your very own dream sequence by the end of the show.

The musical is a fitting tribute to the 1951 film, with nods to classic styles of dance entwined with a glorious score by George Gershwin.

It's performed among Bob Cowley's dream-like set, which perfectly captures the refinement and romance of Paris, making for an awe-inspiring visual spectacle.

Set in liberated Paris after the Second World War, everything has an enchanting optimism and you won't be able to take your eyes off Robert Fairchild as Jerry Mulligan, a GI striving to make it as a painter in a city suddenly burst-

Original Broadway cast  
Picture: Matthew Murphy



ing with hope and possibility. His matinee-idol looks coupled with his faultless and fluid movement are a masterpiece on their own.

When he is joined by Leanne Cop – who plays a young dancer called Lise – the pair exude an effortless elegance with breathtaking sequences, which will melt your heart.

A stellar cast excellently supports them, with Haydn Oakley devilishly dapper as Henri Baurel and Jane Asher formidable as his mother, while David Seadon-Young gives an enchanting performance as the composer Adam Hotchberg.

The sanguine nature of *An American In Paris* can't help but leave you with a glorious sense of positivity and I defy anyone to leave the Dominion Theatre without a spring in their step.

*An American In Paris* is playing at the Dominion Theatre. For more details, visit [anamericaninparisthemusical.co.uk](http://anamericaninparisthemusical.co.uk).

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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 52 Scarsdale Villas, London W8 6PP, who died on 09/02/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 14/06/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Collyer Bristow LLP,  
4 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4TF.  
Ref: SCJUC/78188.1

## IRVINE GERALD SELLAR (Formerly known as Gerald Irvine Sellar) (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 103 Park Street, Mayfair, Westminster, London W1K 7JN, who died on 26/02/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 12/06/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Harcus Sinclair LLP,  
3 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3AA.  
Ref: KBS/AEW/3007.1

## ERLAND HAYES

OTHERWISE ALAN HAYES, LATE OF WESTMINSTER, LONDON, W2, DIED AT WESTMINSTER, LONDON W2 ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2016

The kin of the above named are requested to apply to the Government Legal Department (BV), One Kemble Street, London WC2B 4TS or at [www.gov.uk/bonavacantia](http://www.gov.uk/bonavacantia), failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.



Government  
Legal Department

## LUCINDA DEXTER COOPER (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 99 Warwick Way, London SW1V 1QL, who died on 01/03/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 14/06/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Inheritance Law, Suite 6,  
30 Churchill Square, Kings Hill,  
West Malling ME19 4YU. Ref: 0300

To advertise in this section, please call  
**020 8768 4919**

## JOYCE MAUREEN GATLAND (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Flat 5, Highlever, 69 St Quintin Avenue, London W10 6NZ, who died on 06/02/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 05/06/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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## Transport for London Notice

### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 THE GLA ROADS (CITY OF LONDON) (BUS PRIORITY) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2009 A10 GLA ROAD (BISHOPSGATE) VARIATION ORDER 2017

- Transport for London, hereby gives notice on 30th March it made the above named Order under section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will come into force on 11th April 2017.
- The general nature and effect of the Order will be to extend the existing southbound bus lane on the A10 Bishopsgate from a point 27 metres south of a point opposite the southern flank wall of No 1 Norton Folgate to a point 5 metres south of the party wall of nos. 152 and 154 Bishopsgate.
- The road which will be affected by the Order is A10 Bishopsgate in the City of London
- A copy of the Order, a statement of Transport for London's reasons for the proposals, a map indicating the location and effect of the Order and copies of any Order revoked, suspended or varied by the Order can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:
  - Transport for London  
Streets Traffic Order Team  
(RSM/PI/STOT)  
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road  
London, SE1 8NJ
  - Planning Enquiry Desk  
North Wing  
Corporation of London  
Guildhall  
London, EC2P 2EJ
- Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that they are not within the relevant powers conferred by the Act or that any requirement of the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order is made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated this 4th day of April 2017

Mufu Durowoju

Network Impact Management Team Manager

Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London  
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



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## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (ARGYLE PLACE) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Argyle Place.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be not required.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the 15th April 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Saturday 15th April 2017 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 31st day of March 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

## Transport for London Notice

### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 THE A4 GLA ROAD (KNIGHTSBRIDGE, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY BANNED TURN AND PROHIBITION OF STOPPING) ORDER

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable defect rectification works to take place on A4 Knightsbridge.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle on the west-bound carriageway of A4 Knightsbridge from:
  - turning left into Wilton Place.
  - stopping on the southern kerb-line of A4 Knightsbridge between its junctions with Wilton Place and Old Barrack Yard.
 The Order will be effective at certain times between 10.00 AM and 3.00 PM on the 16th April 2017 and on the 23rd April 2017 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
  - any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
  - anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
- At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via Knightsbridge, Seville Street, Lowndes Square, West Halkin Street, Belgrave Square, Wilton Terrace, Wilton Crescent, Wilton Place to normal route of travel.

Dated this 4th day of April 2017

Mufu Durowoju

Network Impact Management Team - Manager,

Road Space Management-Operations,

Transport for London, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road,

London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



TRANSPORT  
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## Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



### PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

**I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:**

#### FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

**39 Caithness Road London W14 0JA 2016/04708/FUL**  
Erection of a rear roof extension including the formation of a hip to gable roof extension.

**First Floor Salisbury Villas Carthew Road London W6 0DU 2017/01170/FUL**  
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights in the front and side roofspaces.

**Corner Of Rainville Road And Bowfell Road London W6 2017/01228/FUL**

Installation of 3no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 3no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays. **Opposite To 88, 86 And 84 Clancarty Road London SW6 3AA 2017/01225/FUL**

Installation of 3no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 3no. designated 'Electric Vehicles Only' parking bays. **Outside Electricity Substation Rockley Road London 2017/01229/FUL**

Installation of 3no. electrical charging points for vehicles and 1no. feeder pillar; formation of 3no. designated 'Electrical Vehicles Only' parking bays. **35 Novello Street London SW6 4JB 2017/01129/FUL**

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement. **27 Baron's Court Road London W14 9DZ 2017/01127/FR3**

Replacement of existing single glazed timber windows and doors to the front and side elevations with timber double glazed windows, of similar design, detail and opening style as existing; and replacement of existing windows and doors to the rear elevation with PVCu double glazed units, of similar design, detail and opening style as existing. **The Curtains Up 28A Comeragh Road London W14 9HR 2017/01191/FUL**

Use of part of the pavement (fronting Comeragh Road) as an outside seating area comprising of 8 chairs and 4 tables, in connection with the existing Public House between the hours of 09:00 and 20:00 daily. **36 Fitzjames Avenue London W14 0RR 2017/01192/FUL**

Replacement of existing single glazed white painted wooden frame windows with new double glazed white painted wooden frame windows to Flat No.36 Fitzjames Avenue at fifth floor level.

**15 Irving Road London W14 0JT 2017/01204/VAR**

Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2016/03266/FUL granted 19th September 2016 to increase the size of the roof terrace at second floor level to the rear elevation.

**St Pauls Girls School Brook Green London W6 7BS 2017/00864/FUL**

Removal of external staircase and installation of new windows to replace the existing doors at first and second floor level to the eastern elevation of the science block.

**La Reserve Hotel 422 - 428 Fulham Road London SW6 1DU 2017/01128/FUL**

Redevelopment of the site comprising the demolition of the existing hotel building and erection of a four storey plus basement building for use as a hotel.

**36 Fitzjames Avenue London W14 0RR 2017/01199/FUL**

Removal of existing water tank from the rear of the main building at roof level and replacement of existing door with a new window in the rear roofslope.

**55 Hammersmith Grove London W6 0NE 2017/01151/FUL**

Installation of a new window to side elevation at first floor level.

**77 Waterford Road London SW6 2DT 2017/01205/FUL**

Installation of security railing guards to three windows to the front elevation at ground floor level.

**56 Black Lion Lane London W6 9BE 2017/00891/FUL**

Replacement of existing front two sliding sash windows with new double glazed sliding sash wooden windows together with glazing bars; replacement of front entrance door with a new solid 6 panel painted wooden door (Amended description).

**31 Holmead Road London SW6 2JD 2017/01146/FUL**

Amendment to planning permission ref: 2015/06056/FUL granted 3rd March 2016 for the 'Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a rear extension at second floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; bricking up of existing windows to the side of rear back addition at first floor level; installation of new doors to replace the existing door at ground floor level to the rear elevation; conversion of the existing building from 2no self-contained flats into a single family dwellinghouse.' Amendments to include the installation of a door and a Juliet balcony in the rear roofslope.

**Bridge Academy Finlay Street London SW6 6HB 2017/01171/FUL**

Erection of a two storey school building for post-16 teaching and hall (Class D1), on the corner of Finlay Street and Woodlawn Road; and erection

of two, single storey glazed link structures, connecting both the former Greswell Centre building and the new two storey school building to the existing Bridge Academy; involving demolition of former caretaker's house, extension to former Greswell Centre building and part of the existing external workshops; associated external alterations to the existing school buildings; soft and hard landscaping works, including formation of a new games court and playground areas and new boundary treatment; the relocation of the existing parking and servicing; involving the removal of the existing entrance and crossover on Greswell Street; and relocation of entrance and crossover on Finlay Street.

**103 King Street London W6 9JG 017/01168/ADV**

Display of 1no internally illuminated fascia sign and 1no internally illuminated projecting sign to the front elevation.

**362 King Street London W6 0RX 2017/01138/FUL**

Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of a two bedroom self contained flat.

**364 King Street London W6 0RX 2017/01139/FUL**

Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of a two bedroom self contained flat.

**7 Filmer Road London SW6 7BU 2017/01150/FUL**

Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height; installation of two rooflights in the front roofslope; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition.

**Suite 5 Burlington Lodge Studios 48 Rigault Road London SW6 4JJ 2017/00951/FUL**

Erection of an additional floor at roof level, including a front gable extension; and replacement of windows and entrance door to the front elevation; further excavation and enlargement of the existing basement to form new lightwells.

**22 Stonor Road London W14 8RZ 2017/01133/FUL**

Excavation of the rear garden, in connection with the enlargement of the basement; dropping floor level of front vault to increase head height, replacement of external staircase to front elevation from ground to basement level.

**St Michael's Centre Townmead Road London SW6 2SR 2017/01116/FUL**

Demolition of the existing St Michael's Centre with the exception of the front facade and erection of a four storey plus basement building for mixed use as a community centre/place of worship; 6 residential units comprising 3 x 1 bedroom, 2 x 2 bedroom and 1 x 3 bedroom self contained residential units with associated cycle storage and refuse storage.

**28 Perrers Road London W6 0EZ 2017/01140/FUL**

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; installation of a rooflight on a rear roof extension at roof level; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition.

**221 New King's Road London SW6 4XE 2017/01149/FUL**

Remove the existing front boundary wall and erection of a new boundary wall and pillar with railings and a new entrance gate.

**63 Moore Park Road London SW6 2HH 2017/01156/FUL**

Erection of two dormer windows on the existing front roof slope; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of an extension at first floor level to the side over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension at basement level; replace existing French doors to rear elevation at ground floor level with new sliding doors and erection of railings around the flat roof at ground floor level in connection with its use as a terrace; erection of an external staircase from ground floor level to the rear garden.

**18 Brading Terrace London W12 8ES 2017/01174/FUL**

Erection of a part one part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level to the side and rear of the main property.

**853 Fulham Road London SW6 5HJ 2017/01012/FUL**

Change of use of the basement from a storage use ancillary to the Office at ground floor level above (Class A2) to a Yoga Pilates Studio (Class D2).

**21 Cardross Street London W6 0DP 2017/01155/FUL**

Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 150mm; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition.

**45 Ravenscourt Road London W6 0UJ 2017/01161/FUL**

Installation of French doors to replace the existing window and the erection of railings around the flat roof at second floor level to the rear elevation in connection with its use as a terrace.

#### FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

**56 Black Lion Lane London W6 9BE 2017/00892/LBC**

Replacement of existing front two sliding sash windows with new double glazed sliding sash wooden windows together with glazing bars; replacement of front entrance door with a new solid 6 panel painted wooden door (Amended description). Replace front entrance door to solid 6 panel painted wooden door.

**St Pauls Girls School Brook Green London W6 7BS 2017/00865/LBC**

Removal of external staircase and installation of new windows

to replace the existing doors at first and second floor level to the eastern elevation of the science block; installation of new internal partition doors to the science block at first and second floor level.

#### FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

**St Pauls Girls School Brook Green London W6 7BS 2017/00864/FUL**

Removal of external staircase and installation of new windows to replace the existing doors at first and second floor level to the eastern elevation of the science block.

**56 Black Lion Lane London W6 9BE 2017/00891/FUL**

Replacement of existing front two sliding sash windows with new double glazed sliding sash wooden windows together with glazing bars; replacement of front entrance door with a new solid 6 panel painted wooden door (Amended description). Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 25th April 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

#### THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013 NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

**65 Davisville Road London W12 9SH 2017/00253/FUL**

I give notice that Mr & Mrs Benjamin & Christine Excell is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:

Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; formation of a bin and cycle store at the front of the building; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope; installation of a new window to replace the existing door to the side of the back addition at ground floor level; conversion of the existing dwellinghouse into 3 x two bedroom self-contained flats

**Bridge Academy Finlay Street London SW6 6HB 2017/01171/FUL**

I give notice that Mr Nathan Crawley-Lyons is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:

Erection of a two storey school building for post-16 teaching and hall (Class D1), on the corner of Finlay Street and Woodlawn Road; and erection of two, single storey glazed link structures, connecting both the former Greswell Centre building and the new two storey school building to the existing Bridge Academy; involving demolition of former caretaker's house, extension to former Greswell Centre building and part of the existing external workshops; associated external alterations

to the existing school buildings; soft and hard landscaping works, including formation of a new games court and playground areas and new boundary treatment; the relocation of the existing parking and servicing; involving the removal of the existing entrance and crossover on Greswell Street; and relocation of entrance and crossover on Finlay Street.

The proposal constitutes a major development.

**14 Old Oak Road London W3 7HQ 2017/00987/FUL**

I give notice that Ms J Handman is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development:

Demolition of existing detached house and garage, erection of a replacement three storey building comprising of 1 x one bedroom and 5 x two bedroom self-contained flats at the junction of Old Oak Road and Aldbourne Road, and erection of a two storey building comprising of two semi-detached houses located at the rear of the site facing onto Aldbourne Road; formation of bin stores, cycle parking and off street car parking.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 25th April 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **JO ROWLANDS**  
*Regeneration, Planning and Housing Lead Director on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL*

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: [www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning).

Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: [plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk)

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082.**



Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: [www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning)



## Public Notices

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM  
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
SECTION 14(1)  
(AVERILL STREET)  
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Averill Street between its junctions with Fulham Place Road and No. 1 Averill Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Fulham Place Road, Greyhound Road, Everington Street and Delorme Street.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 8th April 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Saturday 8th April 2017 and last for 21 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 23rd day of March 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM  
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
SECTION 14(1)  
(GOLDHAWK ROAD)  
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would suspend the westbound bus lane in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the westbound bus lane on Goldhawk Road, between its junctions with Paddenswick Road and Ravenscourt Square shall be suspended.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be not required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 10th April 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 10th April 2017 and last for 4 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 31st day of March 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM  
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
SECTION 14(1)  
(ESTCOURT ROAD)  
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Estcourt Road between its junctions with Rylston Road and No. 119 Estcourt Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Rylston Road, Sherbrooke Road and Dawes Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 4th April 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Saturday 4th April 2017 and last for 4 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 23rd day of March 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM  
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
SECTION 14(1)  
(LARNACH ROAD)  
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Larnach Road between its junctions with Fulham Place Road and No. 2A Larnach Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Fulham Place Road, Ellaline Road, Rannoch Road, Wingrave Road, Bowfell Road and Nella Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 8th April 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Saturday 8th April 2017 and last for 21 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 23rd day of March 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM  
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
SECTION 14(1)  
(THE CURVE)  
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate construction works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of The Curve, at its junctions with Lilac Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 18th April 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 18th April 2017 and last for 5 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 29th day of March 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM  
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
SECTION 14(1)  
(NASCOT STREET)  
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Gas Main works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Nascot Street between its junctions with Wood Lane and No.1 Nascot Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Wood Lane, Caverswall Street, Eynham Road, Glenroy Street and Shinfield Street.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 10th April 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 10th April 2017 and last for 2 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 23rd day of March 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways



# Public Notices

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## Transport for London Notice

### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 THE A3211 GLA ROAD (VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY BANNED TURN) ORDER (NO.2) 2017

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- This Order is made because Transport for London is satisfied that traffic in the City of Westminster should be prohibited from turning right into A3211 Victoria Embankment from Horse Guards Avenue because works are being executed.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from turning right into A3211 Victoria Embankment from Horse Guards Avenue.  
The Order will be effective at certain times from 7:00 AM on 4th April 2017 until 7:00 AM on 4th October 2017 or when the works have been completed, whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
  - any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
  - anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
- At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via Victoria Embankment eastbound, Northumberland Avenue, Whitehall, Bridge Street to normal route of travel.

Dated this 4th day of April 2017

**Mufu Duwoju**  
Network Impact Management Team Manager, Road Space  
Management - Operations  
Transport for London

MAYOR OF LONDON



## Transport for London Notice

### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 THE A302 GLA ROAD (GROSVENOR PLACE, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND STOPPING) ORDER 2017

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable chamber rebuild and ducting works to take place on A302 Grosvenor Place.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle:
  - from entering or exiting Halkin Street at its junction with A302 Grosvenor Place;
  - from entering or exiting Grosvenor Crescent at its junction with A302 Grosvenor Place;
  - except buses from stopping in the loading and unloading bay outside No.12 A302 Grosvenor Place.
 This Order also installs a loading and unloading bay outside No.18 A302 Grosvenor Place.
- The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
  - any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
  - anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
 At such times as the prohibitions are in force an alternative routes will be indicated by traffic signs via: **(for traffic wishing to enter Halkin Road from Grosvenor Place)** Chapel Street, Headford Place to normal route of travel; **(for traffic wishing to enter Grosvenor Place from Grosvenor Crescent)** Wilton Crescent, Wilton Terrace, Belgrave Square and Chapel Street to normal route of travel; **(for traffic wishing to enter Grosvenor Crescent from Grosvenor Place)** Knightsbridge, Wilton Crescent to normal route of travel.

Dated this 4th day of April 2017

**Mark Whitaker**  
Head of Road Space Management - Operations  
Transport for London, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the safe movement of traffic and pedestrians during the 2017 and 2018 Universities Boat Races on the River Thames; an Order was made the effect of which would impose temporary restrictions on vehicular traffic in various roads as shown in Article 2 of this notice.
- The Hammersmith and Fulham (University Boat Race) (Temporary Restriction of Traffic) Order 2017, would have effect as follows:-
  - On the day of the 2017 and 2018 Boat Race, when instructed by Council employees and whilst the authorised traffic signs are in place, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed across, stop, wait, load or unload on Hammersmith Bridge.
  - For the duration of this order and whilst the authorised traffic signs are in place, no person shall cause any vehicle to stop, wait, load or unload between 8am and midnight, on the day the 2017 and 2018 University Boat Races on the River Thames takes place and four days before that day, in the roads specified in this schedule:
    - BRIDGE VIEW.**
    - HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE ROAD**, between Rutland Grove and Lower Mall.
    - MALL ROAD.**
    - OIL MILL LANE.**
    - QUEEN CAROLINE STREET**, the north-east to south-west arm, the north-west side, from a point 12.00 metres north-east of its south-westernmost extremity to a point 62.00 metres north-east of that extremity.
    - RIVERCOURT ROAD**, between Great West Road and Upper Mall.
    - RUTLAND GROVE.**
    - SOUTH BLACK LION LANE.**
    - STEVENAGE ROAD**, the south-west side, from a point 3.75 metres north-west of the common boundary of Nos. 14 and 16 Stevenage Road, to a point 15.00 metres south-east of that point.
    - WELTJE ROAD**, between Great West Road and Upper Mall.
- Alternative routes for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, and for:
  - a vehicle being used for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes,
  - anything done with the permission of a police constable in uniform or a Council employed parking attendant,
  - a vehicle or trailer authorised by an officer from the Council to be used in connection with the said Boat Races.
- The Order would come into operation on the 2nd April 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- The order would be expected to be in effect on Sunday 2nd April 2017 and on the day of the 2018 Boat Races between the hours of 8am and midnight. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only.

Dated this 9th day of March 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015 (AS AMENDED) ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF ARTICLE 4(1) DIRECTION RELATING TO:

**154 Cromwell Road, SW7 4EF**  
**111 Earl's Court Road, SW5 9RL**  
**28 Golborne Road, W10 5PF**  
**52 Golborne Road, W10 5PR**  
**341 Ladbroke Grove, W10 6DW**  
**395 King's Road, SW10 0LR**  
**76 Tavistock Road, W11 1AN**

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has confirmed a Direction under Article 4(1) of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 ('GPDO').

**The Direction was made on 22 July 2016 and confirmed on 31 March 2017 and applies to:-**

154 Cromwell Road, SW7 4EF  
111 Earl's Court Road, SW5 9RL  
28 Golborne Road, W10 5PF  
52 Golborne Road, W10 5PR  
341 Ladbroke Grove, W10 6DW  
395 King's Road, SW10 0LR  
76 Tavistock Road, W11 1AN  
as set out below.

The Direction applies to the development described in the following classes of the GPDO and will come into force on 23 July 2017:-

**Schedule 2, Part 3, Class M**, in so far as it relates to development consisting of:-

- a change of use of a building from a use as a launderette to a use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses) of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, and
- building operations reasonably necessary to convert the building referred to in paragraph (a) to a use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses) of the said Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987

not being development comprised within any other class.

The effect of the Direction is that the permission granted by Article 3 of the GPDO shall not apply to such development and such development shall not be carried out within that area unless planning permission is granted by the Council.

A copy of the Direction and the relevant site plans may be seen at the offices of the Council at Planning Information Desk, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX at all reasonable hours or can be viewed on the Council's website.

Dated: 31 March 2017

Signed:

Duly authorised officer of the Council



# London Weekly News

# SPORT

Tuesday April 4 2017

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

Cesc Fabregas gave Blues a short-lived lead against Crystal Palace on Saturday  
Picture: Rob Newell



## Conte: Title race not finished

### Dominant Blues suffer shock setback against Palace



This week at  
**STAMFORD BRIDGE**

By Paul Lagan

ANTONIO Conte is as pragmatic in defeat as he is in victory. And while the 2-1 loss at home to Crystal Palace on Saturday could be viewed as a setback to their title ambitions, for the Italian coach the next match is always the more important – and that comes tomorrow (Wednesday) against Manchester City at Stamford Bridge.

Blues have nine Premier League games left and are seven points ahead of second-placed Tottenham Hotspur – their FA Cup semi-final opponents.

Tomorrow's visit of fourth-placed City will be a chance to recapture the momentum halted by Wilfred Zaha and Christian Benteke's goals in Saturday's shock home defeat, after Cesc Fabregas had given Blues a fifth-minute lead.

Earlier in the season, Chelsea lost to Liverpool and Arsenal but then went on an unbeaten run that propelled them to the top of the league and within sniffing distance of their sixth Premier League title.

Does Conte hope to see a similar response?

"This defeat to Crystal Palace is totally different compared to the Liverpool and Arsenal defeats," he said.

"Now we are another team, we are a strong team. Against Crystal Palace it wasn't our day, because we created a lot of chances to score and we dominated the game. When you lose this type of game, in your mind you try to think of the reasons why – but in this case it's difficult to find the right reason.

"Our performance was good. Honestly, I think we dominated the game and created many chances to score. I don't like to use the word unlucky but, for sure, we deserved to draw the game at least. But I know football very well and sometimes this type of game can happen."

Conte is not certain that Pep Guardiola's fourth-placed side, now 11 points adrift of top spot, are the perfect opponents to play so quickly after the Palace setback.

"I don't know if it is the perfect team for us," he said. "I know that Manchester City started the season to win the title. They have a really strong squad. It's right to think of ourselves and go game by game. But in England, easy games don't exist. The games are very tough, whether it is Manchester City or another team."

So is he worried he might be pegged back should City beat them and allow Spurs a glimmer of hope too?

There is an element of defiance from Conte in his reply.

"I think this league wasn't finished before Saturday's defeat and it's not finished now," he said.

"There are nine games to play and we have to go step by step. If we deserve to win the title, we will be very happy. If someone else deserves the title, it means they have played better than us."

Sone Aluko's eighth goal of the season earned Fulham three points at Rotherham  
Picture: Rob Newell



## Top-six Whites

Focus on Craven Cottage

FULHAM visit Derby County tonight (Tuesday) hoping to consolidate a place in the Championship's top six.

Whites moved into the play-off positions by virtue of their 1-0 victory at relegation-bound Rotherham United on Saturday, when Sone Aluko snatched the winner on 66 minutes – the Nigerian's eighth goal of the campaign.

With Sheffield Wednesday having been held 1-1 at South Yorkshire neighbours Barnsley earlier in the day, Fulham moved above the Owls into sixth place. The West Londoners' first win in three games ended Rotherham's three-year stay in the second tier.

Head coach Slavisa Jokanovic said: "It's a great step for us, after a very tough game. We knew we'd have to concentrate to score the goal and finish the game without making too many mistakes."

It's the first game in seven that Fulham have not conceded, although the home side created several decent chances to derail the visitors' promotion prospects.

"I've said before that I miss 1-0 victories but we scored one goal and finished the game with a clean sheet. In the end we found this kind of situation, and this is good news for us," Jokanovic said.

"We tried to be focused on our job and thinking about what we can do in this competition. We weren't thinking about Sheffield Wednesday, or teams in front or behind us."

Perhaps the wily Jokanovic was trying to apply some psychological pressure to Sheffield Wednesday, who visit Rotherham tonight, when he suggested afterwards that, despite Millers' relegation fate now being mathematically confirmed, they could still cause an upset or two before the season ends. Fact is, they have now lost eight in succession.

With seven scheduled fixtures remaining, Fulham travel to Pride Park tonight boosted by three wins and a draw from their last four away games. Only leaders Newcastle United can boast a better record on the road this season.

By contrast, 10th-placed Derby – eight points adrift of Whites – have been in turmoil following the recent sacking of Steve McClaren. Although the Midlanders returned to winning ways with a 1-0 home success against Queens Park Rangers on Friday, it was only their second victory in 11 matches. Still, Rams' highly rated new manager Gary Rowett will be looking to build upon that result and convince his players that they still have faint hopes of finishing in the top six.

Whites return to SW6 on Saturday, when they entertain draw specialists Ipswich Town, while Sheffield Wednesday host Newcastle at Hillsborough. Mick McCarthy's side have shared the points in seven of their last eight matches and failed to score more than once in any of those fixtures. So the Craven Cottage crowd won't be expecting a humdinger – just three more precious points to keep the promotion pot boiling.

Tony McDonald



IAN Holloway promised changes to his Queens Park Rangers starting line-up for tonight's (Tuesday's) visit to improving Aston Villa.

After Friday's disappointing 1-0 defeat at Derby County, manager Holloway said: "We'll try other people against Aston Villa – that's why we've been doing well, because we've been giving people chances. We'll go back and start again. We'll go back to the basics I want."

Australian Massimo Luongo is likely to return to the starting XI after the midfielder was left out of the squad for Pride Park, having returned late in the week from international duty. Luongo had scored his first goal in a Hoops shirt in the 5-1 thrashing of Rotherham United before heading off to the other side of the world for a couple of World Cup qualifiers.

He played the full 90-plus minutes of the Socceros' 1-1 draw against Iraq in

Tehran but remained on the bench throughout their vital 2-0 win over United Arab Emirates in Sydney that keeps alive their hopes of progressing from the Asia qualifying section.

"I think we missed Mass – but we couldn't do anything about that," said Ollie, who, perhaps more surprisingly, decided to bench Yeni Ngbakoto, who had also netted in that Loftus Road trouncing of the Millers just prior to the international break.

Matej Vydra scored the only goal with 20 minutes remaining on Friday, firing high into the net from eight yards after QPR goalkeeper Alex Smithies could only parry Tom Ince's low shot into the path of Derby's Czech striker.

"I'm bitterly disappointed. That didn't

look anything like us of late," Holloway said. "I thought we started OK but then, for some reason, we started to hit it up towards Matt Smith far too often."

"Things just waned away. I thought one or two of the lads looked like they hadn't played for a while – that's the truth, unfortunately. I was more disappointed with the second half – we didn't really give a good account of ourselves."

Derby were always going to be a tough proposition with new manager Gary Rowett taking charge of his first home game – and so it proved.

The setback ended QPR's run of three wins and a draw and Holloway showed some perspective when he said: "I have to give Derby credit – we lost to the better team on the night. And I can't argue

with how far we've come. We've had a great run."

"Unfortunately, we didn't do enough tonight. And the substitutes, they didn't alter the game as much as they have done."

One of the three who came off the visitors' bench, Idrissa Sylla, went closest to scoring for Rangers but his header thudded against the post late on.

Now 15th in the Championship, Rangers are four places and four points below tonight's opponents Aston Villa, who have won all of the last three games by 2-0.

Rangers return to W12 on Friday (April 7), when promotion-chasing Brighton & Hove Albion are in town.

Tony McDonald

## Rangers miss Mass-production